

Hafa Adai!

Senate passes House's anti-public corruption bill. **PAGE 5**
USDOL awards Guam \$4.5M to support disaster-related jobs. **PAGE 6**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 127

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28, 2023

www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune



Norita: DeLeon Guerrero statements lack context, misleading, inaccurate

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deletorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita described yesterday as

"unfortunate" Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) statements about approximately \$93 million in American Rescue Plan

Act funding, saying the senator's "irresponsible" public statements are "dangerously misleading, inaccurate, and lacking in context."

READYING FOR THE PARADE

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

With July 4 just around the corner, the Saipan Mayor's Office has been busy preparing for the annual Liberation Day festivities that will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base. As part of the preparation, the Mayor's Office began building last week the stage that will seat numerous dignitaries during the anticipated Liberation Day Parade.

NMI awarded \$80M to boost access to high-speed internet

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration has awarded \$80.7 million to

the CNMI to enable the Commonwealth to deploy affordable, reliable high-speed internet service to everyone.

The grant award, which NTIA announced yesterday, is part of the "Internet for All"

initiative that is a key component of President Biden's "Investing in America" agenda.

See \$80M on Page 4

'Appointing Kingman as AAG more cost-effective'



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios believes the appointment of former special prosecutor James Kingman as an assistant

attorney general would be more cost-effective for the CNMI, given that his original one-year contract with the OAG was around \$50,000.

In an interview with Palacios yes-

See KINGMAN on Page 4

Palacios: I stand by Jorgensen nomination

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The nomination of Bruce Jorgensen to occupy the Rota seat on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors may have raised some concerns for some Rota community members, but Gov. Arnold I. Palacios says he stands by his nomination and has no regrets.

Members of the Rota community signed a petition last week asking that Jorgensen's nomination to the CPA board should be reconsidered because they believe his

See PALACIOS on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

94

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation has donated \$2,000 to St. Cecilia School in Chuuk.

PAGE 11



ASIA

The United Nations has documented a high number of civilians killed in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

The red carpet unfurls in Abu Dhabi for the premiere of "Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning."

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

MCS President's List and Honor Roll

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 3rd Quarter of SY 2022-2023 President's List & Honor Roll. Please note that the names are arranged alphabetically by first name.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1st Grade

Alexandra Stuart
Angel Sofia Pineda
Avalyn Mae Lizama
Bentley Ellaine Santos
Chloe Jodia Mostales
Dylan Jon Pangelinan
Francine Jaymee Pineda
Isaiah Francisco Villagomez
Jovenvi Dre Cruz
Leihani'lyn Faith Reyes
Liv Mariana Tajeron
Logan Jesus Tenorio
Rhianna Kay Kautz
Zhane Graeson Jugos

2nd Grade

Ariah Kadyn Deleon Guerrero
Arielle Jane Anicete
Aubrey Nicole Matsunaga
Benz Elliott Santos
Brayden Kane Taguchi
Carlie Bai
Ines Maratita
Jayven Xander Sablan
Jeremy Sho Sasamoto
Jesse Joseph Gregory Palacios
Leilani Soledad Castro
Mya Joy Manibusan
Rockson Cabrera
Vincent Salavarria

3rd Grade

Aleaya Bermudes
Ava Monae Basa
Carina Guerrero

Chloe Arnold
Crystin Pangelinan
Denise Kamille Iglesias
Ezekiel Ma'u'i Villagomez
Felix Ryan Tomokane
Gabriella Jo Tenorio
Isaiah Paul

Jake Hiram Maratita Jr.
Jamara Jayde Cabrera-Sablan
Khoen Alexander Torres
Maverick Yamanaka

Rei Ezekiel De Belen
Scott Jonathan Muna

Youngwoo (Stella) Choi
Yuna Yu

4th Grade

Aiyana Pangelinan
Aliyani Basa
Anah Bellah Guerrero
Chloe Jane Militante

Clarise Faith Garamonte

Erika Loreen Cuyugan

Friella Huanne Dela Santa

Jake Peter Deleon Guerrero Jr.

John Damien Sablan

Jonathan Zhang

Kendra Elise Camacho

Kirk Ivan De Perio

Logan Kane Propst

Madden Anthony Deleon Guerrero

Mateo Moctezuma Almada

Neia Dolana Noreymal Tagabuel

Oliveeah Julee Kaipat

Scarlett Shae Salas

Sera Guerrero

Shierlynde Rita Zapanta

5th Grade

Amber Faith Militante

Chloe Anne Marie Matsunaga

Chloe Cepeda

Jeongwoo (Ryan) Choi

Jiwoo Lee

Karl Angelo Diaz

Kathleen Cano

Kennani Vinae Villagomez

Ki Eun Lee

Miana Dolores Delacruz

Paige Kanae Muna

6th Grade

Jaze Enzo San Nicolas

Maria Guerrero

Trisha Juliana Abuan

7th Grade

Alexia Aulene Rubia

Cecilia Villagomez

Do Geon Kim

Dylan Jacob Camacho

Isabella Soledad Demapan

Jadine Nicole Pangelinan

Jessie Chen

Ju Hwan Hyun

Katherine Hwang

Kayla Larson

Layla Carmen Ann Palacios

Remiegem Melchor

Siwoo Lee

Victor Neil Santos

8th Grade

Chan Woong (Henry) Yeom

Christopher James Dela Cruz

Hope McQuay

Iris Maleia Rasa

Jeein Lee

Jose Clarence Tenorio

Josephine Lopez

Juliana Magan Subang

Justin Mallari

Kaitlyn Alexza Drilon

Nicole Angela Pangilinan

Rafael Elijah De Belen

Sage Villagomez

Seungwoo (Henry) Choi

Taher Shakir

9th Grade

Arwen Hannah Bartolata

Ayanna Faith Matsumoto

Camron Zavier Pangelinan

Chae Eun Kim

Emmanuel Pontiveros

Gavril Myles Santiago

Jill Anne Marie Mallari

Jose Mañas

Kayannie Ilifighar Peter

Jessiana Tenorio
Kern Han
Lance Jericho Javier
Leonard Jake Regaldo
Mya Pangelinan
Nyla Deleon Guerrero
Oscar Bien Buenafior
Patricia Denielle Lutu
Seunghee (Sunny) Jeon
Theresse Joy Ogo
Victor Nash Santos
William Matthew Cano

10th Grade

Alvin Hong

Ari James Toskas

Audrein Jennifer Mallari

Chealzka Navarro

Chloe Alexis Camacho

Claire Regina Kautz

Jada Chang

Jaeyun Jung

Jay Francis Dominic Pineda

Jee Woo Son

Jung Hyun Cho

Maili Peter

Malina Rose Tenorio

Seungeun Ha

Tricia Antonette Palacios

Yunseong Seol

11th Grade

Avah Marie Torres

Brandon Lee

Eunkyu (Joey) Hong

Gwen Tiffany Gamab

Jerry Chen

Krissy Rease Cepeda

Leyonne Alfred Tolentino

Maria Yoshie Torres

Paul Santos

Ruben Antonio Guerrero

Sanghyeon Lee

12th Grade

Aubriana Maria Sablan

Brent Matthew Ortiz

Brissa Hunter

Carlo Crisdeo Diaz

Derek Moritaro Sasamoto

Donnie James Jr. Militante

Erin Frink

Francine Monique Albuen

Gerald Jr. Deleon Guerrero

Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez

Jill Anne Marie Mallari

Jose Mañas

Kayannie Ilifighar Peter

Kinamarie Irene Dela Cruz
Kristan Rose Torres
Kyla Monique Cabrera
Leopoldo Naraja
Leunyce Regaldo
Manuel Jacinto Pangelinan
Mathew Adrian Sablan
Moeisha Eleanor Cruz
Ohane Borja
Raeka Shereen Lantin
Sienna Jade Muna
William Xue
Yurihana Rosa Sasamoto

HONOR ROLL

Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1st Grade

Aiden James Dela Cruz

Christopher Pedro Arriola

Damien Joel Pangelinan

Ethan Robert Dasalla

Joseph Cruz Jr.

Journie Kesil Castro

Kyle Ethen Cortez

Liam Tasi Ehsa

Makenna Lei Pangelinan

Matthew Mercado

Miyah Kaiapat

Xander James Lieto

Yanbin (Jacob) Cui

2nd Grade

Eduardo Vicente Diaz II

Farrell Huan Dela Santa

Gabriella Salome Gamab

Haleina Mae Maratita

Ji Yoo Lee

Kieran (K.P.) Tomokane

Miriam Flores

Norris Jr Kwon

Stephen Jacub (SJ) Camacho

Sumai Francine Castro

Yanchen (Henry) Cui

3rd Grade

Apollo Inapo Arriola

Aycee Rianne Quitugua

Edward George Flores II

Gino Marvin Deleon Guerrero

Jace Pangelinan

Jack Joseph Jr. Sablan

4th Grade

Brayden Luke Repata

Ian James De Leon

Liam Michael Sablan

Qoheleth Thomas Blas

5th Grade

Adelle Jane Kautz

Ava Carmina Sablan

Brianna Palacios

Cali Jade Cabrera

81 take part in PSS Mental Health Team's 'Luta Color Run'

The Mental Health Team of the Public School System, in collaboration with community agencies, took the lead in organizing the "Luta Color Run" on Rota last Saturday, June 10, 2023, to celebrate Pride Month.

Following the devastating impact of Typhoon Mawar on the island of Rota, the community demonstrated remarkable resilience as a total of 81 participants joined the fun run. Early participants received a warm welcome and an incentive package to kick off the event.

The run started at the Tun Kindu Baseball Field and took participants on a scenic route around the Sinapalo Youth Center and Rota Judicial Center, then ending back at the baseball field. Along the route, color splash stations were set up every 200 feet, adding to the excitement and vibrancy of the event.

Prior to the start, Isaiah Solong from the Rota Mayor's Public Information Office led the participants in a light stretch and exercise session, followed by welcoming remarks from LEA



The Public School System's Mental Health Team poses with Mayor Aubry Hocog, Luta Color Run participants, and Americorps volunteers at the finishing station of the run.

Community manager Marvin Tamangided and Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog.

Vannah Hocog, a Behavioral Health specialist from PSS Mental Health, collaborated with Tamangided in the days leading up to the event to coordinate support and efforts alongside various community partners.

"It was a heartwarming event that brought the community together to support allyship and inclusivity. These kinds of activities serve to promote safe spaces for our LGBTQIA+ youth and community as a whole. Despite the challenges that Rota faced from Typhoon Mawar, it did not hinder the Gilita spirit to celebrate PRIDE," said Tamangided.

PSS Mental Health organized the event to raise awareness about the vital importance of creating braver and safer spaces for the LGBTQ+ community and allies. These inclusive environments are essential in fostering comfort,

acceptance, and value within students and communities. Promoting such spaces not only cultivates inclusivity, but also empowers individuals to embrace their identities, fostering self-discovery and acceptance of their sexual orientation, while recognizing the crucial role of mental well-being and physical health in this transformative journey, and emphasizing the provision of support and resources for individuals to flourish.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, PSS Mental Health State Education Agency director, said, "I am immensely proud of our Luta

team and inspired by the may-

or's leadership in prioritizing Pride despite numerous challenges. These events serve as a powerful reminder that individuals of all ages and diverse gender identities can live authentically without the burden of hiding their true selves. The Luta Color Run served as yet another testament to our collective efforts in replacing fear with hope, rejection with acceptance, intolerance with humanity, and most importantly, eradicating shame to cultivate pride."

For more information and updates on events, activities, and social media challenges for Pride Month, you can fol-

low the Dolphin Pride Club, Pride Marianas-Youth, Pride Marianas, and PSS Mental Health (Haligi Aware) on Instagram and Facebook.

Pride Month is an observance that spans the entire month and celebrates the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, +) community. It commemorates the historic milestones of the LGBTQ+ social movement and endeavors to educate the community about the importance of inclusivity and equality. It is essential to note that the LGBTQ+ community encompasses various gender identities beyond those represented by the acronym, including intersex, nonbinary, asexual, pansexual, and individuals who identify in diverse ways or are exploring their sexual or gender identity or expression. The celebration also extends a warm welcome to all allies and supporters of the LGBTQ+ community. (PR)



Man allegedly assaults woman over leftovers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was arrested last week for allegedly assaulting a woman following a heated argument over leftovers.

Hou Guohua, 46, was arrested last Friday for allegedly assaulting his former wife. He is facing charges of assault and battery (domestic violence) and disturbing the peace.

At a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on Hou and remanded him back to Department of Corrections custody after he failed to post bail.

Hou was ordered to return to court on July 5 for a preliminary hearing; his arraignment

was set for July 10.

According to court documents, on the evening of June 22, Department of Public Safety units were dispatched to an apartment in Garapan to respond to a disturbance incident.

At the residence, police spoke with Hou, who stated that he and his friends had gathered at his apartment earlier that day to eat. Hou shares the apartment with his former wife and their children.

Hou said the victim came out of her room and asked that they share some of their food, but he allegedly told her to just cook some more, to which she responded she didn't want to.

At around 4:30pm, Hou said he woke up from a nap to the victim allegedly shout-

ing at their children, causing him to get mad and shatter a teacup on the floor.

However, in a followup interview with the victim the following day, she told police that she woke up hungry at around 4pm, but when she checked the food, it had been mixed together as leftovers, prompting her to ask the children why the food was like that. Hou then woke up and they got into a heated argument.

In the middle of the argument, the victim said she went into her room but Hou kicked down the door, punched her in the face, and threw a teacup at her, hitting her knee.

Police noted that the victim had a laceration and discoloration on the knee.

SHRM meeting presents leadership forum

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management will host a general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort Sunflower Ballroom on Monday, July 10, 2023, featuring Catherine Nelson, who will be running a session on how to build leadership culture in the workplace. The meeting will be from 11am to 2:30pm. Doors will open at 10:45am.

Nelson, who is the general manager for FranklinCovey in Australia and New Zealand, will be running a session about "The Future of Leadership," a

two-hour forum involving discussions on how to build leadership culture.

The following key points will be shared:

■ The latest research on factors impacting future leadership success.

■ The three levels of leadership you must get right and what to do now.

■ FranklinCovey solutions to close these gaps.

The following fees apply:

1. \$35 for SHRM members
2. \$45 for future-members.

To register, please sign up at <https://docs.google.com/>

forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG2kj5qkrbzD6qjuFb-2DrkEgiJ-2jQ7-6DG2pX-6jv-G-IYA/viewform

This meeting will include lunch. Seating is limited and by submitting this form you are confirming your attendance.

One person per one entry. One representative may submit multiple entries for each participant under their company.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JVA No. 23-072

Opening Date: Friday, June 16, 2023
Closing Date: Friday, June 30, 2023

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Training & Development Coordinator
Admin / Executive Director Office
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$37,756.00 to \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt
Contracted
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Training & Development Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assess training needs through surveys, interviews with employees, focus groups, or consultation with managers, instructors, or customer representatives.
- Design, plan, organize, or direct orientation and training programs for employees or customers.
- Offer specific training programs to help workers maintain or improve job skills.
- Present information with a variety of instructional techniques or formats, such as role playing, simulations, team exercises, group discussions, videos, or lectures.
- Obtain, organize, or develop training procedure manuals, guides, or course materials, such as handouts or visual materials.
- Monitor, evaluate, or record training activities or program effectiveness.
- Develop alternative training methods if expected improvements are not seen.
- Evaluate training materials prepared by instructors, such as outlines, text, or handouts.
- Evaluate modes of training delivery, such as in-person or virtual, to optimize training effectiveness, training costs, or environmental impacts.
- Keep up with developments in area of expertise by reading current journals, books, or magazine articles.
- Attend meetings or seminars to obtain information for use in training programs or to inform management of training program status.
- Monitor training costs and prepare budget reports to justify expenditures.
- Select and assign instructors to conduct training.
- Schedule classes based on availability of classrooms, equipment, or instructors.
- Supervise, evaluate, or refer instructors to skill development classes.
- Devise programs to develop executive potential among employees in lower-level positions.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned. Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's Degree in a directly related field and 2 years of professional experience in the assigned field including; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics. Must have: Advanced understanding of basic office applications, including MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.) Must have good communication skills and be capable of writing clear correspondences such as memorandums, letters, emails, etc. Must have proper phone and email etiquette.

Skills In: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

Physical Demands:

- Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

NORITA*From page 1*

funds were wholly inaccurate and dangerously misleading.

In her letter to DeLeon Guerrero, Norita said that, although it was a painful decision to terminate the 500-plus ARPA-funded employees, it was absolutely necessary to maintain critical operations considering the general fund is not able to shoulder the personnel cost.

The previous Torres administration hired the 500 employees using ARPA money.

At the Senate special session last Friday, DeLeon Guerrero said the administration preaches the words of transparency, accountability, and rebuilding trust, yet 500 employees whose posts were funded by ARPA, have lost their jobs despite evidence showing a positive number that there is still ARPA money.

DeLeon Guerrero noted that when they first took office, a worksheet was provided showing that as of Dec. 31, 2022, the available ARPA was \$65,789.171. She said the latest report from Finance showed that, as of May 31, 2023, available ARPA was \$93,419,465.

The Senate president also

disclosed that the Tinian Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is being asked to surrender a car, which was processed through ARPA, as allegedly there is no more ARPA money.

DeLeon Guerrero issued the strong statements against the administration before voting "yes" to Senate floor leader Sen. Corina L. Magofna's (Ind-Saipan) motion to override Palacios' veto on Sections 604 and 713 of Public Law 23-04, or the amended budget law, during the special session.

Norita said in her letter yesterday that, as of May 31, 2023, the Fiscal Response Team issued an update to the budgetary ARPA reconciliation of approximately \$93 million (in budget, not actual cash), with \$116 million in expenses that had yet to be booked against ARPA funds and that are still being scrutinized by the FRT for allowability.

Basically, Norita is saying that what is budgeted is not necessarily what is available to disburse in cash. She said the very little that is remaining in cash is already over-committed.

The secretary said Deleon Guerrero has already received this information and was also provided information about an ARPA cash balance of approximately \$24 million, which is

currently allocated for critical expenditures, such as utilities, fuel, communications and health/life insurance, for all branches of government.

Additionally, Norita said, the administration has kept its commitment to both the Judiciary and the Legislature to maintain ARPA allocation for critical operations only.

She said they cannot pay vendors with figures represented on a budget and that ultimately, cash is the real decision-making factor.

Norita said the remaining ARPA cash of \$24 million is barely sufficient to sustain critical operations for a very limited amount of time, thus cost-containment measures have been taken and the revised fiscal year 2023 budget was passed into law.

On the issue of ARPA Spending Plan, Norita said that she met virtually with the U.S. Treasury last April 27 regarding the CNMI's need to revise the current ARPA Spending Plan. Norita said they were advised that the revision is communicated in the semi-annual compliance reporting on expenditures.

"No other submission is required at this time. The fact that you are unaware of this information is questionable," she told the president.

This information, Norita

pointed out, was immediately provided to those present at the subsequent FRT meetings, including the Legislature's fiscal analyst.

The secretary said the Palacios-Apatang administration began with a reported \$86 million deficit in funds from ARPA and this prompted the creation of the FRT. She said the administration invited the Legislature, including DeLeon Guerrero, to join the FRT.

Since then, Norita said, the FRT has been meeting weekly, providing updates on the reconciliation process and continuously changing balances.

Although DeLeon Guerrero has not been attending these meetings, the Legislature's fiscal analyst has been provided documents showing the progress of the reconciliation, she added.

The secretary said it is their full understanding that figures are updated weekly when there are new findings.

Norita said through the FRT's work, they were able to organize financial information that initially was in disarray into a reporting format that could help them make better, informed decisions. She said the FRT continues to update both budgetary and cash balances of the ARPA Fund.

The secretary said it was the FRT that advised both

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and lawmakers that a revised budget was necessary, cost-containment measures must be implemented, and government obligations must be reduced in order to protect critical operations.

Norita said other legislators who needed more information to understand the numbers have made the effort to attend these meetings to gain insights and directly communicate their questions, concerns, and proposed solutions.

"I encourage you to do the same; the invitation to actively participate remains open," Norita told DeLeon Guerrero.

She said the administration has reduced employee hours to 72 hours per pay period, vacated rental spaces, discon-

nected phone lines, returned vehicles, canceled contracts—all to cut costs.

"We welcome the same effort from others," Norita said.

To reduce outstanding obligations for unpaid vehicles, a meeting was held with certain agencies to determine how the Executive Branch could assist in reassigning current government vehicles so that unpaid purchase orders could be canceled and vehicles returned to the vendor, Norita said. Unfortunately, she said, some agencies did not attend and did not fully understand the intent.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

KINGMAN*From page 1*

proposed a possible trial date in April 2024.

The governor said he is confident that Kingman will serve the CNMI well in the prosecution of the former governor's case.

"I don't believe there will be a conflict because Kingman is actually separated from the Attorney General's Office.

I'm confident in Kingman's ability to serve as AAG in the ongoing case against the former governor," he said.

"This is a small community so we all know what the issues are, so it's just a matter of him putting his case together and I'm confident that the judicial process would give the former governor his due process, which will be appropriate and reasonable while also protecting his constitutional rights," Palacios added.

Palacios noted that the funds used to pay Kingman's salary would be sourced from the Attorney General's Office.

"It's not a conflict [with our austerity measures]. The OAG has its own budget," he said.

The defense team for Torres says the public deserves an explanation from the Attorney General's Office regarding Kingman's appointment.

"The OAG should explain to the public why it is paying Mr. Kingman the extraordinary pay. What are the specific successful criminal prosecutions handled by Mr. Kingman in cases involving public corruption, financial crimes, and/or white-collar crimes that justify the extraordinary sums the government is paying him? If such cases do not exist, then what is the justification for the extraordinary pay and for not advertising the position?" asked the defense.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Attorney General Edward Manibusan but was informed that he is off-island on leave.

In addition, Kingman was also unable to provide a statement on his recent appointment as AAG.

PALACIOS*From page 1*

appointment would be "an insult to the people of Rota."

In an interview with Palacios yesterday, he said he did not intend to convey any insult to the people of Rota, but he stands by his nomination, saying that Jorgensen's experience is what is needed on the CPA board.

"Everybody will think it's offensive, I don't really believe I need to comment on that. I think Mr. Jorgensen has the heart, he has lived on Rota, he has served as an attorney on Rota, and he is known there. I have no regrets in his nominations. The people that are petitioning against that, that is their inherent constitutional rights to do so, but we

will leave it to the Senate," Palacios said.

"I didn't just pick him on a whim, I looked at his credentials. Right off the bat, I knew this was going to be an issue, he's a haole guy who will be representing Rota. But look at this guy's credentials; he's got a JD in maritime law and aviation and he's got experience in those fields. That's what we need," he added.

Palacios also addressed concerns that Jorgensen is no longer a resident of Rota and should not be nominated to represent the people who reside there. However, Palacios said that, upon his review, Jorgensen is a Rota resident.

"Jorgensen is a resident of Rota. I understand the community's concern, but they need to understand what a 'resident' is. In order for you

to be considered a resident of Saipan [for example] you need to move from, say, Rota to Saipan and register to vote, which would take about 45 days. So [Bruce] is a resident of Rota. He used to live on Rota. I personally know him," he said.

Saipan Tribune tried multiple times to obtain comments from Jorgensen yesterday, to no avail.

According to a previous article in *Saipan Tribune*, the petition against Jorgensen's nomination urged the CNMI Senate to oppose the nomination due to his alleged lack of active community participation.

"Mr. Jorgensen is not an active member of the Rota community and has not demonstrated any significant involvement since the late

mayor Prudencio T. Manglona's tenure during the 1980s when he served as a legal advisor. While he briefly participated in the transition team for the governor and lieutenant governor, this limited engagement does not establish a genuine connection or understanding of the challenges faced by our community," the petition stated.

The petition also expressed concerns that the nomination may be influenced by political differences between the previous and current administrations.

Lastly, the petition raises the concern of Jorgensen's questionable residence.

Aside from reconsidering Jorgensen's nomination and appointment, the petition wants the Senate to launch an investigation into Jorgensen.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang's "commitment to putting a focus on broadband within this administration has directly resulted in this momentous funding opportunity for the Marianas."

The CNMI's Broadband Office is in the process of developing a CNMI Broadband Five-Year Action Plan that will identify areas that need improved broadband access and adoption, and it will develop strategies to address these needs. This funding will be used to execute various facets of that plan.

\$80M*From page 1*

U.S. President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced the allocations to the CNMI and other states yesterday at the White House.

The grant enables the CNMI to use funding from the \$42.45-billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program from Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to administer programs with-

in the Commonwealth that connect all of the "unconnected" and to give everyone the skills, devices, and access they need to make the most of the affordable, reliable high-speed Internet.

"The \$80-million grant allows all residents, businesses, agencies, and organizations in the CNMI expanded access to more affordable, high-speed internet that connects them to information and to the tools and resources they need to thrive in their jobs, their studies, business growth, or their organiza-

tional missions," said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "We are thankful to the Biden-Harris administration, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the NTIA for the historic funding support for broadband access."

A CNN report states that

Texas will receive the largest BEAD award amounting to more than \$3.3 billion, followed by California, which could receive more than \$1.8 billion. Glen Hunter, who is the special assistant for Broadband Policy and Development, said that Palacios and

Kingman was hired back in March for the sole purpose of serving as the special prosecutor in former governor Ralph DLG Torres' criminal case currently pending in Superior Court.

Kingman's initial contract with the OAG was set to expire in this year, but it's believed that he was appointed as an AAG so that he can continue to serve as the head prosecutor for Torres' trial, which has been postponed again.

Torres' trial has yet to be rescheduled but the defense has

Senate passes House's anti-public corruption bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed Friday a bill that seeks to address public corruption by expanding and clarifying the offense of

official misconduct and establishing felony and misdemeanor punishments.

With all six senators present voting "yes," House Bill 23-15, House Substitute 1, now goes to the governor's desk for action.

Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), who is the author of the legislation, stated in the bill that public officials must be held to a standard commensurate to the high esteem in which they are held.

Camacho said this legislation provides an expanded and clarified definition of official misconduct and assigns specific felony and misdemeanor punishments, depending on the type of underlying misconduct.

As the CNMI Supreme Court has noted, the Penal Code does not expressly define who is a "public official" for the offense of official misconduct, making it subject to some interpretation, he said.

The lawmaker said this bill also enhances the punishments associated with the crime of misconduct in public office by applying felony punished ranges to the most serious acts of misconduct and the loss of substantial amounts of public funds.

Camacho also pushed for the passage of the bill during the session's public comments portion.

Office of the Attorney General chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr. said at the session

the OAG supports this bill in its fight against corruption. "As you probably all very aware, we

are in a battle against corruption and our office is trying to lead the charge," Glass said.

He said that is one of the reasons why they established this new task force to fight corruption.

Chief public defender Douglas W. Hartig wrote a comment to the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, opposing the bill in its original form,

H. B. 23-15. Hartig said the bill should not be passed as it has several errors due to a cut-and-paste that went wrong. He noted that there are also substantive problems.

The House JGO Committee, chaired by Rep. Marissa R. Flores (Ind-Saipan), then proposed to amend H. B. 23-15 to better focus on Anti-Public Corruption laws. House Substitute 1 amended the offense of misconduct in public office and expanded the range of punishments to better reflect the types of misconduct.

The full House adopted the JGO Committee report and passed H. B. 23-15, in the form of House Substitute 1.



CHILD CARE TRAINING

Providers from centers subsidized by the Child Care and Development Fund recently completed the training for precautions in transporting children. This training was facilitated by Evergreen Learning Quality Care specialist Maricar I. Peña. It meets the required 12 health and safety topics all providers must complete and was made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI CCDF program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI ASL teacher gets into RIT's Randleman Summer Program

In recognition of her outstanding achievements and solidifying her standing among the top interpreters in the field, CNMI American Sign Language/English interpreter Terricka Deleon Guerrero Cabrera has been admitted into the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's RIT Randleman Summer Intensive Program in 2023.

As an enthusiastic and dedicated ASL interpreter, Cabrera became known for her vibrant and personable approach to her work, backed with a strong educational background. Cabrera had graduated in 2022 with a B.A. in ASL/English interpreting, accompanied by minors in ASL Studies and Psychology.

During her undergraduate studies, Cabrera graduated summa cum laude from Western Oregon University, and had also been selected for a coveted internship at Western Oregon University, where she gained invaluable hands-on experience.

Currently, she is pursuing an M.A. in Interpreting Studies, further expanding her knowledge and skills in the field.

Cabrera's professional expertise includes a range of specialized areas, including training for TypeWell transcribing and a deep understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion principles. She has also honed her abilities in working with DeafBlind individuals as a co-navigator and is adept in utilizing Protacile language.

Cabrera said she wants to get better at her profession and is currently engaged in a transformative action re-

search project. Her project focuses on promoting positive self-talk in interpreters through the reframing of cog-

nitive distortions, fostering a supportive, and empowering environment for colleagues.

(Chrystal Marino)

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-025

AGAG BOOSTER PUMP AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEM UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of upgrading the existing Agag Booster Pump Station (AG); rehabilitation of existing Agag concrete sump tank, yard piping, aboveground flowmeter and valve station with concrete pad, and all other appurtenances at the Agag site; renovation of the existing chlorine and electrical building; installation of a new booster pump (triplex system); construction of a new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting at the Agag site; and site improvements and grading. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 185 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-23-025, Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) August 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 17, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician via address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator



Camacho

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Refrigeration Mechanic

Hours: Full-Time

Duties and Responsibilities:

Install and repair industrial and commercial refrigerating systems. Observe and test system operation, using gauges and instruments. Adjust valves according to specifications and charge system with proper type of refrigerant by pumping the specified gas or fluid into the system. Test lines, components, and connections for leaks. Dismantle malfunctioning systems and test components using electrical or mechanical equipment. Adjust or replace worn or defective mechanisms and parts and reassemble repaired systems. Perform mechanical overhaul and refrigerant reclaiming. Install wiring to connect components to an electrical power source. Mount compressor, condenser, and components in specified locations, using hand tools, power tools, or acetylene welding equipment. Do other duties as assigned.

Qualification Requirements:

High school graduate with two years work experience as a Refrigeration Mechanic. Must be EPA Certified. Must have a valid driver's license. Able to monitor gauges, dials, and other indicators to make sure machines and equipment are working properly. Able to use hand tools and power tools including acetylene-welding equipment. Can lift heavy objects occasionally. Self-driven, hardworking, and can work independently.

Job Title: Mechanic

Hours: Full-Time

Duties and Responsibilities:

Repair automobiles, trucks, and other vehicles. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Examine vehicles to determine extent of damage or malfunctions. Align vehicles' front ends. Tear down, repair, and rebuild faulty assemblies, such as power systems, steering systems, and linkages. Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services, such as oil changes, lubrication, and tune-ups. Plan work procedures, using charts, technical manuals, and experience. Follow checklists to ensure all important parts are examined, including belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome areas. Maintain cleanliness of work area. Repair radiator leaks. Repair and service air conditioning, heating, engine cooling, and electrical systems. Disassemble units and inspect parts for wear, using micrometers, calipers, and gauges. Overhaul or replace carburetors, blowers, generators, distributors, starters, and pumps. Repair or replace parts such as pistons, rods, gears, valves, and bearings. Rewire ignition systems, lights, and instrument panels. Repair manual and automatic transmissions. Repair or replace shock absorbers. Replace and adjust headlights. Install and repair accessories, such as radios, heaters, mirrors, and windshield wipers. Rebuild parts, such as crankshafts and cylinder blocks.

Qualification Requirements:

High school graduate with two years work experience as a vehicle mechanic. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Ability to use acetylene/cutting torches, dial calipers, drill/punch presses, handheld diagnostic computers, and bleeder/flare nut/pump/slugg wrenches. Ability to diagnose gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly.

Company: Yaong Corporation

Location: Unit 6 Rem Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

To apply:

Please send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribyan Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Background check may be required prior to employment.

USDOL awards Guam \$4.5M to support disaster-related jobs

» Grant funding supports typhoon cleanup, recovery, humanitarian assistance

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Labor announced yesterday the initial award of \$4,549,554 in funding to support cleanup and recovery activities in Guam after Typhoon Mawar caused flooding and extensive damage in May 2023.

Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, the National Dislocated Worker Grant of up to \$11,373,884 allows the Guam Department of Administration to provide people with temporary employment remov-

ing debris and delivering humanitarian assistance to those the storm affected.

A powerful Category 4 storm, the typhoon made landfall in Guam's northern tip and then moved across the island, bringing widespread flooding and 140-mile-per-hour winds. The storm knocked out power and affected Guam's water supply. The Federal Emergency Management Agency issued

a major disaster declaration on May 25, 2023, enabling Guam to request this funding.

Supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Dislocated Worker Grants expand the service capacity of dislocated worker programs at the state and local levels by providing funding assistance in response to large, unexpected economic events that lead to significant job losses. (**USDOL**)



U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SPENCER PERKINS
4th Reconnaissance Squadron volunteers clean up debris in Santa Rita, Guam, June 7, 2023. The 4th RS volunteers helped clean Santa Rita after Typhoon Mawar caused damage to the island of Guam.

Andersen AFB unlocks boundless connectivity

By ALLISON MARTIN
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The 36th Communications Squadron partnered with Project Arc to get the wireless Air Force network back online across Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. This system allows airmen to access Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router without plugging in.

Project Arc is a program across the Air Force, made up of selected uniformed scientists and engineers, who travel from base to base to innovate and troubleshoot issues.

After Typhoon Mawar some of Andersen AFB's airmen were displaced from their offices, but still needed to continue

the mission. This increased the need for adaptable connectivity and the 36th CS and Project Arc stepped in to help.

"AFNET gives airmen flexibility, you can bring your whole workstation with you and still be connected to the network," said Senior Airman Darrell E. Normanmoore, cyber transport technician with the 36th CS.

The wireless Air Force Network system offers the potential to increase productivity and maximize mission capabilities for airmen across numerous work centers throughout the base.

"Airmen can connect their Air Force laptops to the Air Force Wi-Fi and have access to emails, access to shared drives,



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALLISON MARTIN
U.S. Air Force airmen with the 36th Communications Squadron pose for a photo on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on June 15, 2023. The 36 CS is working to connect a wireless Air Force network across Andersen AFB which allows airmen to access Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router without plugging in.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP23-OPD-42300078

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 14, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

“CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL:

(<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>)

OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANO IGLECIAS
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO: CPA-RFP-011-23-REPACKAGED

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 28, 2023 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS RENTAL, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA), 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING WORKING WORKS BEGINNING JUNE 28, 2023.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE IN WRITING AND ADDRESS TO THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EITHER BY FACSIMILE AT 234-5962 OR EMAIL: atudela@cnmiports.com NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M., JULY 20, 2023.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CPA. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

really anything they need without being tied to a specific desk because of previously needing to be plugged in with cables," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Schafer, F-15 tactical aircraft maintenance instructor assigned to Kadena Air Base and member of Project Arc.

Ideally, the end goal for this project is to improve work center interoperability by being able to connect to AFNET from anywhere on base.

"Once the flight line access points are up and operational, TDY units could easily access the Air Force network from government laptops instead of spending hours running cables. ... It reduces the burden on the 36th CS during exercises," said Schafer. "It'd also be amazing if airmen at many job sites could walk around with their laptops accomplishing their work outdoors."

If you and your command are curious if your work center has wireless AFNET access or are interested in how to get access contact the 36th CS at 366-2666.

UOG deploys drones to map Typhoon Mawar devastation

Fallen trees, broken power lines, and debris strewn across the island—these are just a few of the devastating sights captured via drone as part of a collaboration between the University of Guam and the National Weather Service Guam Forecast Office to map the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar.

Led by a team of remote pilots from various UOG programs, including the Drone Corps, NASA Guam Space Grant, NASA Guam Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center, crew members assessed the damage from May 27 to June 8.

Disaster response through drones

With approximately 60 hours spent on drone flight, set-up, and processing, the mission amassed 11,758 photos that will be stitched together to produce high-precision orthomosaic maps, according to Jonelle Sayama, UOG environmental science graduate student and NASA Guam Space Grant fellow.

"The campaign leveraged advanced drone technology, including multiple DJI Matrice 300 drones and Zenmuse P1 sensors, that provided highly accurate survey data. With these state-of-the-art tools, researchers will be able to zoom in and see high-resolution visuals and actually pinpoint specific details, such as the species of trees that withstood typhoon-force winds and those that didn't," Sayama said.

Sayama was the campaign's co-



A portion of an orthomosaic map displaying the storm-related damage to Governor Joseph F. Flores Beach Park in Tumon, Guam is seen.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

lead remote pilot alongside PI-CASC research assistant Dong Won Lee, who owns a drone service company. According to Lee, the project required a special waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration to map at higher altitudes. "The end product was an extremely high-resolution orthomosaic map that spans thousands of acres, with a ground sampling distance of 2.64cm. Having such a high-resolution GSD, which

measures the distance between two consecutive pixel centers, enables scientists to delve deep into the smallest details, such as examining small cracks on the road."

Meteorologists will be using the data to make detailed analyses regarding the typhoon's winds, coastal inundation, and damage to the natural and built environment.

These assessments used to occur during "on-the-ground" site visits.

"Through the detailed aerial imagery, we now have the ability to view heavily damaged areas that would otherwise be too difficult or dangerous to access due to debris or fallen trees," said Brandon Aydlett, NWS Guam's Science and Operations Officer.

"This partnership showcases the power of collaboration in harnessing cutting-edge tools, providing data that will be instrumental in understanding the extent of the storm's impact and po-

tentially serving as a starting point for guiding future mitigation efforts."

A new frontier for the UOG Drone Corps

The post-storm mapping campaign presents a new frontier in disaster response capabilities for the UOG Drone Corps which has primarily established itself in training remote pilots to assist in scientific research and construction projects.

"This is new territory for our program and members, pushing the boundaries of how our pilots can use the resources we offer to aid our community during times of crisis," said Keanno Fausto, communications coordinator for NASA Guam Space Grant and coordinator for UOG Drone Corps.

Kaya Taitano, an Agricultural and Natural Resource Science major and a member of the UOG Drone Corps' second cohort, said the mapping was challenging yet rewarding.

"We had a small, limited window of time to capture the data before clean-up began so we had to be as efficient as possible," she stated. "I hope the information we gathered will give researchers an idea of where the storm surge was, and which infrastructure needs to be addressed for future decision-making processes."

For more information about the data and study, contact Brandon Aydlett at william.aydlett@noaa.gov.

To learn more about the UOG Drone Corps program, visit www.bit.ly/dronecorps. (UOG)

USCG patrol enhances partnerships in Pacific ahead of Mawar

By SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) crew completed a patrol from May 7 to 23, 2023, showcasing the invaluable partnerships and enhanced interoperability between the U.S. Coast Guard and its regional allies in the dynamic strategic environment of the Pacific under the ongoing Operation Rematau.

During the patrol, the *Frederick Hatch* crew engaged in several significant activities, highlighting the commitment to deepening partnerships and safeguarding the Pacific region. These achievements demonstrate the U.S. Coast Guard's sustained regional presence and dedication to promoting maritime security and cooperation.

Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, emphasized the importance of the U.S. Coast Guard's sustained regional presence and commitment to deepening partnerships, stating, "Our continued engagement in the Pacific allows us to strengthen existing relationships and forge new ones that will be remembered generations from now. The success of the USC-



The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) delivers donated household goods, clothes, and a generous supply of dog and cat food weighing over 2,500 pounds to support the Saipan Humane Society in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on May 9, 2023.

lands over 120 nautical miles north of Saipan. The crew also delivered crucial supplies, including outboard engines and a small luxury in the form of a birthday cake to support the needs of the local communities in those areas. At the request of the residents, this also included religious services. A U.S. Navy chaplain accompanied the crew and provided a mass on Agrihan.

The *Frederick Hatch* crew spent time on Saipan conducting navigation training with the CNMI Department of Public

Safety Boating Safety Unit and the CNMI Customs and Biosecurity Marine Unit as part of ongoing training initiatives. These collaborative efforts aim to improve interagency coordination and enhance future regional maritime operations.

This patrol also included two maritime law enforcement boardings under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission on the high seas, located 500 nautical miles west of Guam. This enforcement action showcases the extended presence and en-

forcement capabilities of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam outside of historical or typical patrol regions. The *Frederick Hatch*'s crew also undertook a joint patrol of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone with the PSS *Remeliik II* crew, patrolling along Palau's shared EEZ border with the Philippines to combat illegal fishing.

At the end of the patrol, they met up with USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) and USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140), who sortied from Guam in advance of Typhoon Mawar and conducted storm avoidance in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia. This effort and the port's reopening enabled the cutters to be the first ships to enter port after the storm. Coordinating with U.S. Coast Guard District 14 and U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, all three ships safely avoided Typhoon Mawar and were poised to conduct missions and respond to emergent needs immediately following the storm.

Lt. Patrick Dreiss, commanding officer of USCGC *Frederick Hatch*, commended his crew's performance, stating, "This patrol was another great example of the adaptability of the *Frederick Hatch* crew, tackling the interesting challenges of Micronesia. An-

choring and coming ashore on sparsely populated islands is not easy, but visiting and supporting those who enjoy living on the islands of their families and ancestors is necessary. The hospitality of the residents and Mayor Taisacan is greatly appreciated, and it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for myself and the crew to visit Agrigan and Alamagan.

The first joint patrol with PSS *Remeliik II* was short but laid the additional groundwork for future operations between Guam-based FRCs and our partners' patrol boats across Micronesia. And rounding out our patrol steaming with our fellow Coast Guard cutters as the first ships back into Apra Harbor after Typhoon Mawar made me proud to be a Coast Guardsman in Guam."

The recent patrol of the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* highlights the U.S. Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to strengthening partnerships, fostering interoperability, and promoting regional security in the Pacific under Operation Rematau, furthering the overarching Operation Blue Pacific. The achievements of this patrol underscore the significant role played by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam members in ensuring a safe and secure maritime environment.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 127

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Censure this House: Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Republicans abuse their power to punish Adam Schiff

When 20 House Republicans joined with Democrats last week to reject a partisan censure of California Congressman Adam Schiff, along with a \$16 million fine, for his handling of the first impeachment of Donald Trump, there was hope that the nonsense was dead. But seven days later, the Republicans dropped the fine and got everyone in their conference on board.

Following the 213 to 209 vote on Wednesday, as is the long custom, Schiff was directed by Speaker Kevin McCarthy to present himself in the well of the House, where McCarthy read the censure.

It was shameful. But the shame is not on Schiff, who broke no rule or law or practice, but McCarthy and the GOP, who have now politicized the punishment power of the House. Censure, the most serious sanction short of expulsion, is supposed to be for major breaches of the norms of the national legislature, not to settle political scores.

Harlem's Charlie Rangel was properly censured a dozen years ago for a host of violations related to financial improprieties. The overwhelming vote was bipartisan. Paul Gosar of Arizona was properly censured in 2021 for posting a video showing himself killing AOC and attacking President Biden. The vote was narrowly bipartisan, with only the two Jan. 6 committee Republican stalwarts, Adam Kinzinger and Liz Cheney, joining the Democrats. Even so, there is no dispute that Gosar published the video and it was wrong.

With Schiff, there is nothing like either the Rangel or Gosar cases, or a century's worth of censures, stemming from crimes or serious ethical violations.

This is politics, so there will always be fights and disputes and bruised feelings. But censures aren't meant to be part of the political tussles, but rather to punish wrongdoing.

Trump didn't like being impeached, as he correctly was, and his toady Republicans decided to slam Schiff, who is running for Senate. If Schiff is successful and, God forbid, so is Trump, Sen. Schiff will be able to vote for Trump's conviction in his third impeachment trial.



Abraham Lincoln's thoughts on a 'house divided' speak to our current national discord

A house divided against itself cannot stand." So said Abraham Lincoln in his "House Divided" speech, given 165 years. Many describe contemporary America in the same terms. We're a house divided against itself and in danger of collapse. We see dire prognostics about America's future due to an array of differences—religious, racial and economic, to name a few. Assessing the accuracy of these dark prophesies requires understanding Lincoln's words and the state of America's division today.

When Lincoln used the phrase "a house divided," he did not intend to equate it with all distinction and disagreement. Our political principles and structures presuppose that we won't all hold the exact same principles or draw the exact same conclusions. While defending the Constitution, Publius, the pen name for Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, in Federalist No. 10 argues that people's different circumstances, fallible reason and selfish passions always birth disagreement. A polity could achieve full conformity only through tyrannical means that infringe on liberty and equality.

As free beings, we can and must live with some level of divergent views. That's one reason to have elections, using them as an orderly and peaceful way to work out our disagreements.

But while we can't hope for perfect unity, we can't exist with its opposite. Every political community must hold something in common, or it's not a community at all. And without some common fundamental purpose, competing ones will work against each other.

What kind of disagreements, then, signal a house divided instead of normal, acceptable differences occurring within a political community? Lincoln pinpointed slavery as marking a fundamentally divided America. Slavery is clearly a more essential issue than, say, a few percentage points in a tax rate. A position toward slavery deals with the question of human equality, a question that's essential to politics. If humans are unequal, then the superior have some unilateral justification for ruling their inferiors—up to owning them. But if people are equal, then rule should result only from common consent.

Political communities must choose between these options. In saying that the country could not remain forever half-enslaved and half-free, Lincoln declared that either America would be a republic based in human equality or a monarchy or aristocracy grounded in superiority and subservience. No logical middle ground existed.

Today, we must ask what differences we hold truly rise to the level of slavery—to the level of threatening the structural integrity of America's house. Again, debates about particular spending levels do not fit the bill. Americans always have argued about these things without putting the country in existential crisis. But we do presently have conflicts about the nature of people and the purposes of government. On both, we must have some ba-

By ADAM CARRINGTON
Chicago Tribune

Adam Carrington is an associate professor of politics at Hillsdale College in Michigan.



sic unity, or we don't know who our fellow citizens are or what we're trying to accomplish together.

There are fundamentally different views on human biology debated in America's public square. What makes someone a man or a woman? When does human life begin and end? We see deep divisions about the purposes of government. Do they exist to protect natural rights given by God, to enshrine fashionable dogmas into law, or to support personal libertinism often described as "self-actualization?" America does resemble two if not three or four peoples when taking these questions into account. We are in those senses a "house divided."

What, then, does our future hold? If Lincoln is right (and he is) that a house divided cannot stand, will we collapse or renew? History would argue for the latter. Fundamental clashes have occurred before, and in every one, America has remained. And only once—in Lincoln's time—did those disagreements result in actual civil war. More likely, we will work out a new consensus on the basis of elections, social pressures and cultural influences.

In saying we will reach a new consensus, that does not mean the new baseline will of necessity be better than what preceded it. We could argue that the most just side did not win every conflict in America's past. Many who celebrate the North's triumph in 1865 lament President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. Some who thank God for the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s bemoan the sexual revolution. Victories, too, can be somewhat partial, in which one side might gain the essential win but not without some real concessions to their opponents. (Consider the Anti-Federalists and the Bill of Rights.)

Lincoln opened his famous speech by saying, "If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it."

We, too, must judge America's current state and tendencies. We, too, must ask what to do and how to do it. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Let us strive for a renewal of our old foundations. Let us so renew for the sake of a better future.

Older men like Robert De Niro should consider more than finances when it comes to having kids

Recently, two of Hollywood's most respected actors made news unrelated to the film industry.

In May, Robert De Niro announced the birth of his seventh child the previous month. The 79-year-old Oscar winner welcomed his daughter, Gia Virginia Chen De Niro, with girlfriend Tiffany Chen.

Later that same month, Al Pacino, 83, and girlfriend Noor Alfallah announced that they are expecting a baby later this year.

Both of these stories raised some eyebrows and also became the subject of jokes and stories in publications such as *The Onion* because of the ages of De Niro and Pacino.

Having a child is a decision parents should make by themselves and should not be mocked by others. However, even jokes in bad taste can bring up real concerns that should be considered. In similar scenarios in which older men are considering having children, they should consider several things before moving forward.

Presumably, De Niro and Pacino have the financial means to set up these children for life. There will likely never be any question about paying for child care, private schools and college. The children of these men will likely never have a material need that cannot be met. However, there is a lot more to being a father than providing material items or

even paying for school and day care.

The current life expectancy in the U.S. for men is approximately 73 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While this is an average and varies based on genetic makeup and lifestyle choices, it is something for a would-be father to consider, especially if he is several years beyond 73 and considering having a child.

Children need their fathers, and no amount of financial stability can take the place of having a father. Men in their late 70s and 80s who are thinking of having children should strongly consider that they risk not being around for the most important periods of their children's lives.

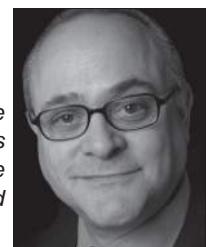
I'm not just referring to the obvious events such as grade school and high school graduations and walking one's daughter down the aisle when she gets married. I'm referring to the everyday nurturing, advice-giving and example-setting that occur between a father and his child.

Numerous studies have shown that children tend to do much better behaviorally and emotionally when both of their parents play a meaningful role in their lives. Those studies have shown that children who are raised in sole custody households are more likely to develop behavioral problems than those who

By JEFFERY LEVING

Chicago Tribune

Jeffery Leving is founder and president of the Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving Ltd. and is an advocate for the rights of fathers. He is the author of Fathers' Rights, Divorce Wars and How to Be a Good Divorced Dad.



spend time with both parents.

While there is not a high likelihood that the newly born and future-born children of De Niro and Pacino will become criminals, the Fatherhood Educational Institute has shared statistics showing that 72% of all teenage killers grew up without fathers, 60% of rapists were raised in fatherless homes and 70% of kids now incarcerated in juvenile corrections facilities grew up in a single-parent environment.

One can probably make a strong case that older fathers bring more wisdom and financial security to their newborn children. I'm not arguing in favor or against older men having children. But I urge all older men who are considering becoming fathers to really examine their own situation beforehand and keep in mind that there is much more to being a father than providing financial stability.

Anti-trans bills disregard the science on sex and gender

By AMY B. MCEUEN

Progressive Perspectives

Amy McEuen, Ph.D., is a public voices fellow with The OpEd Project and associate professor of biology at University of Illinois Springfield.



Science denial continues to play a strong role in American politics. But the world works the way the world works, and no amount of legislation can change that. Our educational system should teach the complexity of human bodies and identity.

I challenge fellow scientists: psychologists, biologists, neuroscientists, medical doctors and nurses to join me in raising their voices against these harmful laws. We need to embrace the true complexity of human identity, not deny it or attempt to limit it.

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LNVN. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



The letter 'G' in the acronym LGBTQ+ stands for gay. Gay has several meanings, one usage of which is for happy or merry times. The word as used in this acronym is now specifically used to refer to homosexual males. Both American poets mentioned here were open about and did not hide their sexual preferences.

Walt Whitman (b. 05/31/1819 - d. 03/26/1892) from Long Island, NY, is the father of Free Verse in American poetry. He helped and nursed wounded Civil War soldiers in a hospital in Washington, D.C. during and after the war. He admired President Abraham Lincoln and I have included part of a poem he wrote after Lincoln's assassination here. He could not get his now famous book of poems *Leaves of Grass* published for years because of homoeroticism in it so he published several editions on his own.

Allan Ginsberg (b. 1926 - d. 1997) was one of the leaders of the Beat Generation of poets, which preceded and influenced the Hippies or Love Generation of the 1960s. I heard him read poems at my college, C.W. Post, L.I.U., in 1968 with Dr. Timothy Leary and Dr. Richard Alpert aka Baba Ram Dass discussing LSD.

An early poem in 1956, *Kaddish*, is a long poem of mourning on the death of his mother, Naomi. *Kaddish* is a Hebrew prayer in Aramaic, praising God in the language Jesus spoke. His poem includes praise of homosexuality. Ginsberg was against the war in Vietnam. His poetry often contains vulgarities and obscenities.

With both poems I have offered only sections due to their length, in hopes readers will look them up to read them in their entirety.

O Captain! My Captain!

This poem is an elegy/ dirge in three octets written for President Abraham Lincoln in 1865 by Walt Whitman after Lincoln

was assassinated in Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. Following is the middle octet of the poem:

O Captain! My Captain! rise up and hear the bells,
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores
a-crowding
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
Here Captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head!
It is some dream that on the deck,
You've fallen cold and dead."

AMERICA

A free verse Beat poem written by Alan Ginsberg in 1956. There are more than 90 lines in the poem. I have selected lines that are relevant to today's headlines from this poem written 64 years ago:

(the beginning of the poem)
America I've given you all and now I'm nothing.
I can't stand my own mind.
America when will we end the human war?
Go f... yourself with your atom bomb.
I don't feel good don't bother me. I won't write my poem
till I'm in my right mind."

(The rest of the poem is filled with anger, comments about politics, Communism, capitalism, labor unions. It exposes discrimination against Black Americans and American Indians, and some reference to marijuana use. Ginsberg is upset with what he sees in American history.)

America you don't really want to go to war.
America it's them bad Russians.
Them Russians them Russians and them Chinamen.
The Russia wants to eat us alive. The Russia's power mad."

(He ends the poem on an upbeat note and alludes to his homosexuality. Here are the last lines at the end of the poem)

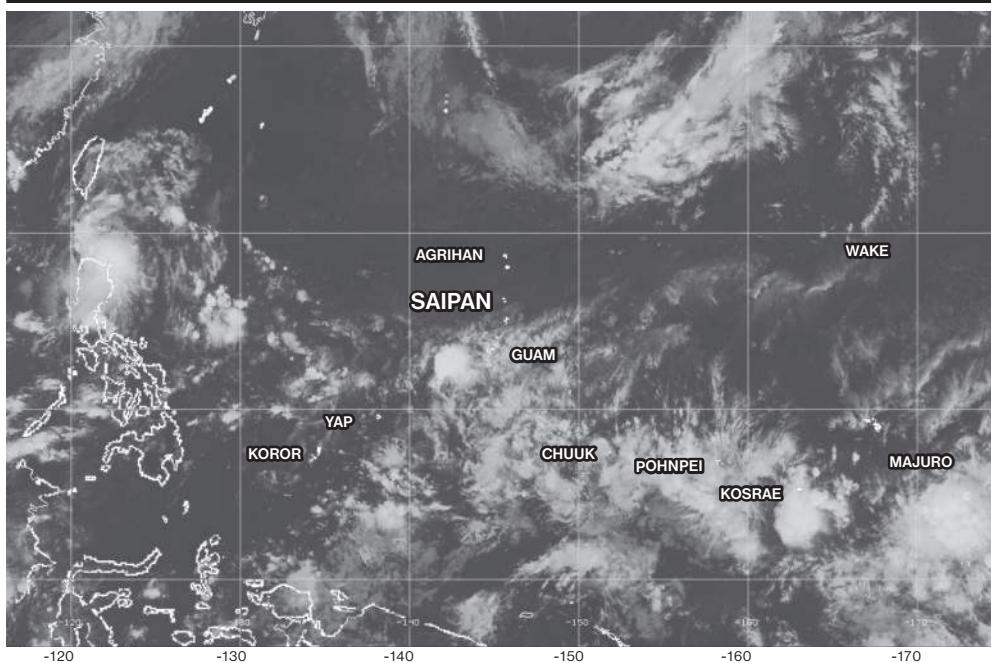
America this is quite serious.
America this is the impression I get from looking in the television set.
America is this correct?
I'd better get right down to the job.
It's true I don't want to join the Army or turn lathes in precision parts factories,
I'm nearsighted and psychopathic anyway.
America I'm putting my queer shoulder to the wheel.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
88°	78°	88°	79°	88°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:18 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87°	/	81°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:04 AM	1:46 PM
Thursday	-	1:41 AM	2:39 PM
Friday	-	2:23 AM	3:36 PM
Saturday	-	3:10 AM	4:37 PM
Sunday	-	4:04 AM	5:43 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

AROUND THE GLOBE

Auckland	Scattered Thunderstorms	58° / 52°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	86° / 71°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Cloudy	77° / 62°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 80°
Melbourne	Showers	53° / 43°
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
New York	Thunderstorms	76° / 68°
Osaka	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°
Busan	Thunderstorms	78° / 72°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	87° / 67°
Salem	Sunny	92° / 67°
San Francisco	Cloudy	64° / 54°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	85° / 74°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	87° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

2:37 AM	High Tide	2.00
9:46 AM	Low Tide	0.66
3:57 PM	High Tide	1.55
9:01 PM	Low Tide	1.11

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective
			June 5				June 5
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
			ICN				via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau,
			Guam				Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/				Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
				3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #</td							

Business

Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation donates \$2K to Chuuk school

The Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation, an organization founded by owner/operators of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan Jose and Marcia "Ruri" Ayuyu, committed to supporting education initiatives, is pleased to announce a generous donation of \$2,000 to St. Cecilia School in Chuuk.

The donation, made on June 10, 2023, aims to address the school's immediate needs and contribute to classroom renovations. The Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation recognizes the importance of investing in education and believes that every child deserves access to a well-equipped and conducive learning environment.

This donation will assist St. Cecilia School in fulfilling its mission to provide an exceptional education to its students. The funds will be utilized to address various needs, including classroom renovations, ensuring that the learning spaces are conducive to effective teaching and learning. By investing in infrastructure enhancements, the foundation aims to create an environment that fosters creativity, collaboration, and academic success.

"We are honored to contrib-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan co-owner and Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation co-founder Marcia E. Ayuyu presents a \$2,000 check for St. Cecilia School to Chuuk Bishop Julio Angkel last July 10.

ute to St. Cecilia School and support the staff and faculty during this time," said Marcia Ayuyu, co-founder of the foundation. "By investing in classroom renovations and meet-

ing the immediate needs of the school, we hope to inspire and uplift the students and achieve their full potential."

The Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation extends its grati-

tude to St. Cecilia School for their dedication to nurturing young minds. It also acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the teachers and staff who play a vital role in shaping the future leaders of Chuuk.

For more information about

the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation and its initiatives, please visit mcdonaldsguamandsaipan.com

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned by Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service res-

taurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years in Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the islands' largest employers. (PR)

States clamp down on freight trains, fearing derailments, federal gridlock

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Spurred on by train derailments, some states with busy criss-crossing freight railroads are pursuing their own safety remedies rather than wait for federal action amid industry opposition and questions about whether they even have authority to make the changes.

The activity comes after a train carrying toxic chemicals derailed on Feb. 3 along the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, prompting new legislation and reviving long-stalled efforts as backers voice skepticism that the federal government is capable of helping.

Legislatures in at least a dozen states have advanced measures in recent weeks, including some in states such as Minnesota that have witnessed disruptive derailments.

Some of the new requirements include provisions long resisted by the railroad industry. It contends it's capable of making improvements and that its growing efficiency—including significantly longer trains and a much smaller workforce—doesn't compromise safety.

In large part, states want limits on the length of trains that routinely stretch more than 2 miles long and on how much time trains can block road crossings — which can disrupt traffic and block emer-

gency response vehicles.

They are also pursuing rules to maintain the current standard of two-person crews, bolster the trackside detectors used to identify equipment problems and require more notice to local emergency responders about hazardous freight.

The railroads argue that the industry's overall safety record has been improving even as trains have grown longer and crew sizes shrank over the decades. So Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw said in an interview that he doesn't think it makes sense to regulate those areas.

"We're going to follow the science and we're going to follow the data," Shaw said. "We're looking for investments in safety that are going to drive favorable outcomes."

And the state efforts to regulate rail are fraught with legal uncertainty over whether only the federal government can enforce such requirements. And Congress and federal regulators are considering similar measures.

Ohio moved quickly, with the Republican-controlled government enacting a new law within two months of the Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine.

The evacuation from the fiery crash extended into

Pennsylvania, where the state House of Representatives approved a wide-ranging safety bill in early June.

The sponsor, Rep. Rob Matzie, a Democrat whose western Pennsylvania district is home to a major rail freight handling hub, said he is satisfied with the state's legal standing.

He said he is sick of hearing that the East Palestine derailment is an isolated incident, that the rail companies are making improvements or that the federal government will order safety improvements.

"It's now time for this state to act," Matzie told colleagues during floor arguments. "We can't wait for federal regulations, which always seem to be in the works, but never quite get done. Or for federal laws that will never ever see the light of day."

States maintain that Congress long ago gave them the authority to regulate aspects of rail safety that federal regulations don't cover and that courts require federal law to be clear about when that responsibility rests exclusively with a federal agency.

Railroads, however, argue that federal law broadly gives federal agencies exclusive jurisdiction to regulate rail transportation and that state laws ostensibly aimed at rail safety often do not actually improve safety.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Monday said that high-speed internet is no longer a luxury but an "absolute necessity," as he pledged that every household in the nation would have access by 2030 using cables made in the U.S.

"These investments will help all Americans," he said. "We're not going to leave anyone behind."

Biden announced that more than \$40 billion would be distributed across the country to deliver high-speed internet in places where there's either no service, or service is too slow.

"But it's not enough to have access — you need affordability and access," the president said, adding that his administration is working with service providers to bring down costs on what is now a household utility — like water or gas — but often remains priced at a premium.

With Monday's announcement, the administration is launching the second phase of its "Investing in America" tour. The three-week blitz of speeches and events is designed to promote Biden's previous legislative wins on

infrastructure, the economy and climate change going into a reelection year. The president and his advisers believe voters don't know enough about his policies heading into his 2024 reelection campaign and that more voters would back him once they learn more.

Biden's challenge is that investments in computer chips and major infrastructure projects such as rail tunnels can take a decade to come to fruition. That leaves much of the messaging focused on grants that will be spent over time, rather than completed projects.

The internet access funding amounts depended primarily on the number of unserved locations in each jurisdiction or those locations that lack access to internet download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second download and upload speeds of 3 Mbps. Download speeds involve retrieving information from the internet, including streaming movies and TV. Upload speeds determine how fast information travels from a computer to the internet, like sending emails or publishing photos online.

The funding includes more

than \$1 billion each for 19 states, with remaining states falling below that threshold. Allotments range from \$100.7 million for Washington, D.C., to \$3.3 billion for Texas.

Biden said more than 35,000 projects are already funded or underway to lay cable that provides internet access. Some of those are from \$25 billion in initial funding as part of the "American Rescue Plan."

"High-speed internet isn't a luxury anymore," he said. "It's become an absolute necessity."

More than 7% of the country falls in the underserved category, according to the Federal Communications Commission's analysis.

Sen. Joe Manchin, who Biden called out as a "friend" during today's announcement, celebrated the \$1.2 billion West Virginia will receive to expand service in the rural, mountainous state of around 1.8 million.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo joined Manchin at a press conference after Biden's announcement and said West Virginia's allotment would be enough money to "finally connect every resident."

Nation

Biden calls mutiny ‘struggle within Russian system’

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden declared Monday that the United States and NATO played no part in the Wagner mercenary group’s short-lived insurrection in Russia, calling the uprising and the longer-term challenges it poses for President Vladimir Putin’s authority “a struggle within the Russian system.”

Biden and U.S. allies supporting Ukraine in its fight against Russia’s invasion emphasized their intent to be seen as staying out of the mercenaries’ stunning insurgency, the biggest threat to Putin in his two decades leading Russia. They are concerned that Putin could use accusations of Western involvement to rally Russians to his defense.

Biden and administration officials declined an immediate assessment of what the 22-hour uprising by the Wagner Group might mean for Russia’s war in Ukraine, for mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin or for Russia itself.

“We’re going to keep assessing the fallout of this weekend’s events and the implications from Russia and Ukraine,” Biden said. “But it’s still too early to reach a definitive conclusion about where this is going.”



President Joe Biden arrives in the East Room with Vice President Kamala Harris and Jeff Say for an event about high speed internet infrastructure at the White House, Monday, June 26, 2023, in Washington. AP

Putin, in his first public comments since the rebellion, said “Russia’s enemies” had hoped the mutiny would succeed in dividing and weakening Russia, “but they mis-calculated.” He identified the

enemies as “the neo-Nazis in Kyiv, their Western patrons and other national traitors.”

And Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the special services were already investigating whether Western intelligence services were involved in Prigozhin’s rebellion.

Over the course of a tumultuous weekend in Russia, U.S. diplomats were in contact with their counterparts in Moscow to underscore that the American government

regarded the matter as a domestic affair for Russia, with the U.S. only a bystander, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

American diplomats also stressed to Moscow that they expected Russia to ensure the safety of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and Americans detained in Russia, Miller said.

In a video call between Biden and leaders of U.S.-aligned countries over the weekend, all were determined to

give Putin “no excuse to blame this on the West,” Biden told reporters at the White House.

“We made clear that we were not involved. We had nothing to do with it,” Biden said. “This was part of a struggle within the Russian system.”

Michael McFaul, a former U.S. ambassador to Russia, said Putin in the past has alleged clandestine U.S. involvement in events — including democratic uprisings

The next big advance in cancer treatment could be a vaccine

SEATTLE (AP)—The next big advance in cancer treatment could be a vaccine.

After decades of limited success, scientists say research has reached a turning point, with many predicting more vaccines will be out in five years.

These aren’t traditional vaccines that prevent disease, but shots to shrink tumors and stop cancer from coming back. Targets for these experimental treatments include breast and lung cancer, with gains reported this year for deadly skin cancer melanoma and pancreatic cancer.

“We’re getting something to work. Now we need to get it to work better,” said Dr. James Gulley, who helps lead a center at the National Cancer Institute that develops immune therapies, including cancer treatment vaccines.

More than ever, scientists understand how cancer hides from the body’s immune system. Cancer vaccines, like other immunotherapies, boost the immune system to find and kill cancer cells. And some new ones use mRNA, which was developed for cancer but first

used for COVID-19 vaccines.

For a vaccine to work, it needs to teach the immune system’s T cells to recognize cancer as dangerous, said Dr. Nora Disis of UW Medicine’s Cancer Vaccine Institute in Seattle. Once trained, T cells can travel anywhere in the body to hunt down danger.

“If you saw an activated T cell, it almost has feet,” she said. “You can see it crawling through the blood vessel to get out into the tissues.”

Patient volunteers are crucial to the research.

Kathleen Jade, 50, learned she had breast cancer in late February, just weeks before she and her husband were to depart Seattle for an around-the-world adventure. Instead of sailing their 46-foot boat, Shadowfax, through the Great Lakes toward the St. Lawrence Seaway, she was sitting on a hospital bed awaiting her third dose of an experimental vaccine.

Cancer vaccines, like other immunotherapies, boost the immune system to find and kill cancer cells. And some new ones use mRNA, which was developed for cancer but first

“Even if that chance is a little bit, I felt like it’s worth it,” said Jade, who is also getting standard treatment.

DeSantis unveils Trump-like immigration, border security policy

EAGLE PASS, Texas (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Ron DeSantis promised to end birthright citizenship, finish building the southern border wall and send U.S. forces into Mexico to combat drug cartels as part of an aggressive—and familiar—immigration policy proposal he laid out Monday in a Texas border city.

The sweeping plan, the Florida governor’s first detailed policy release as a 2024 contender, represents a long-established wish list of Republican immigration proposals that largely mirrors former President Donald Trump’s policies. Much of DeSantis’ plan faces tall odds, requiring the reversal of legal precedents, approval from other countries or even an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Still, DeSantis projected confidence on Monday,

excoriating leaders in both political parties for failing to stop what he called an immigrant “invasion.” He addressed his plans while touring Eagle Pass, a community that has emerged as a major corridor for illegal border crossings during Joe Biden’s presidency.

“I have listened to people in D.C. for years and years and years, going back decades—Republicans and Democrats—always chirping about this yet never actually bringing the issue to a conclusion,” DeSantis told an audience of roughly 100 residents, including local Democratic officials, school teachers and mothers of children lost to fentanyl overdoses. “What we’re saying is no excuses on this.”

He likened illegal border crossings to home break-ins and warned that drug traffickers trying to bring their product

into the United States could wind up “stone cold dead.”

“If somebody were breaking into your house to do something bad, you would respond with force. Yet why don’t we do that at the southern border?” DeSantis asked. “So if the cartels are cutting through the border wall, trying to run product into this country, they’re going to end up stone cold dead as a result of that bad decision.”

“And if you do that one time, you’re not going to see them mess with our wall ever again,” he said.

The DeSantis campaign has promised to release more detailed policy rollouts in the coming weeks. But in leading with immigration, the two-term Florida governor is prioritizing a divisive issue that has long been a focus of the GOP’s most conservative voters. The pro-immigrant group America’s Voice condemned De-

in former Soviet countries, and campaigns by democracy activists inside and outside Russia — as a way to diminish public support among Russians for those challenges to the Russian system.

The U.S. and NATO “don’t want to be blamed for the appearance of trying to destabilize Putin,” McFaul said.

A feud between Prigozhin and Russia’s military brass that has festered throughout the war erupted into the mutiny that saw the mercenaries leave Ukraine to seize a military headquarters in a southern Russian city. They rolled for hundreds of kilometers toward Moscow, before turning around on Saturday, in a deal whose terms remain uncertain.

Biden’s national security team briefed him hourly as Prigozhin’s forces were on the move, the president said. He had directed them to “prepare for a range of scenarios” as Russia’s crisis unfolded, he said.

Biden did not elaborate on the scenarios. But national security spokesman John Kirby addressed one concern raised frequently by the public, news media and others as the world watched the cracks opening in Putin’s hold on power — worries that the Russian leader might take extreme action to reassert his command.

Putin and the Kremlin have made repeated references to Russia’s nuclear weapons since invading Ukraine 16 months ago, aiming to discourage NATO countries from ratcheting up their support to Ukraine.

Santis for making “invasion” references that have been used by white supremacists.

Yet voters in the political middle have warmed to more aggressive immigration policies in recent months as illegal border crossing surged. Overall, 6 in 10 adults in the U.S. disapprove of Biden’s handling of immigration, according to a recent AP-NORC poll.

Still, it may be difficult for DeSantis to separate himself on immigration from the many other Republicans seeking the 2024 presidential nomination — especially Trump, the front-runner.

That didn’t stop him from trying.

Speaking from a podium emblazoned with the words, “No Excuses” and “Stop the Invasion,” DeSantis noted that there were more immigrants deported in the first four years of the Obama administration than in Trump’s first term.

Asia

UN: Since Taliban takeover more than 1,000 civilians killed in attacks



Taliban fighters enjoy lunch inside an adobe house that is used as a makeshift checkpoint in Wardak province, Afghanistan, Thursday June 22, 2023.

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The United Nations said Tuesday it has documented a significant level of civilians killed and wounded in attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover — despite a stark reduction in casualties compared to previous years of war and insurgency.

According to a new report by the U.N. mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, since the takeover in mid-August 2021 and until the end of May, there were 3,774 civilian casualties, including 1,095 people killed in violence in the country.

That compares with 8,820 civilian casualties — including 3,035 killed — in just 2020, according to an earlier U.N. report.

The Taliban seized the country in August 2021 while U.S.

and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from Afghanistan after two decades of war.

According to the U.N. report, three-quarters of the attacks since the Taliban seized power were with improvised explosive devices in “populated areas, including places of worship, schools and markets,” the report said. Among those killed were 92 women and 287 children.

The statement said that the majority of the IED attacks were carried out by the region’s affiliate of the Islamic State group — known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province.

However, the U.N. report said a “significant number” of the deaths resulted from attacks that were never claimed or that the U.N. mission could

not attribute to any group. It did not provide the number for those fatalities.

The U.N. report also expressed concern about “the lethality of suicide attacks” since the Taliban takeover, with fewer attacks causing more civilian causalities.

It noted that the attacks were carried out amid a nationwide financial and economic crisis. With the sharp drop in donor funding since the takeover, victims are struggling to get access to “medical, financial and psychosocial support” under the current Taliban-led government, the report said.

The U.N. agency demanded an immediate halt to attacks and said it holds the Taliban government responsible for the safety of Afghans.

is expected that the second quarter will be faster than the first quarter,” Li said at the World Economic Forum. “We expect to achieve the economic growth rate of about 5% determined at the start of the year.” Private sector forecasters expect China’s economic output to grow by at least 5% this year, but some have cut their outlooks following May’s weak activity.

PH forces search for ex-vice mayor who resisted arrest, sparking deadly clash

China's premier says economic growth can hit its 5% target this year

BEIJING (AP)—China’s No. 2 leader said Tuesday that economic growth accelerated in the latest quarter and expressed confidence it can hit the ruling Communist Party’s official target of 5% for the year. Premier Li Qiang, speaking at a conference in the eastern city of Tianjin, gave no figure for the three months ending in June but said it was faster than the previous quarter’s 4.5%. The world’s second-largest economy rebounded from 2022’s unusually weak 3% growth following the end of anti-virus controls on travel and business activity. But that faded faster than expected. Consumer and factory activity weakened in May and record-setting youth unemployment spiked up. “It

Police backed by army troops attempted Saturday to serve Pando Mudjasan with arrest warrants over alleged killings and search his home for suspected illegal firearms and explosives in Maimbung town in southern Sulu province. He and his men, however, opened fire at the law enforcers, sparking clashes that dragged on for a day, police and military officials said. A police commando was killed and 11 other law enforcers, including a soldier, were wounded. Three of Pando’s men were killed but he escaped with a gunshot wound, police and the military said. The fighting forced more than 5,000 residents of Maimbung to flee to safety. The army deployed more soldiers to search for Pando and more than 20 armed followers on Monday, officials said.

World

Why US response to Russia rebellion decidedly cautious

WASHINGTON (AP)—On the surface, the turmoil in Russia would seem like something for the U.S. to celebrate: a powerful mercenary group engaging in a short-lived clash with Russia’s military at the very moment that Ukraine is trying to gain momentum in a critical counteroffensive.

But the public response by Washington has been decidedly cautious. Officials say the U.S. had no role in the conflict, insist this was an internal matter for Russia and decline to comment on whether it could affect the war in Ukraine. The reason: to avoid creating an opening for Russian President Vladimir Putin to seize on the rhetoric of American officials and rally Russians by blaming his Western adversaries.

Even President Joe Biden, known for straying from talking points, has stayed on script.

Biden told reporters Monday that the United States and NATO weren’t involved. Biden said he held a video call with allies over the weekend and they are all in sync in working to ensure that they

give Putin “no excuse to blame this on the West” or NATO.

“We made clear that we were not involved. We had nothing to do with it,” Biden said. “This was part of a struggle within the Russian system.”

Biden and administration officials declined to give an immediate assessment of what the 22-hour uprising by the Wagner Group might mean for Russia’s war in Ukraine, for mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin or for Russia itself.

“We’re going to keep assessing the fallout of this weekend’s events and the implications from Russia and Ukraine,” Biden said. “But it’s still too early to reach a definitive conclusion about where this is going.”

Putin, in his first public comments since the rebellion, said “Russia’s enemies” had hoped the mutiny would succeed in dividing and weakening Russia, “but they miscalculated.” He identified the enemies as “the neo-Nazis in Kyiv, their Western patrons and other national traitors.”

UN investigator says Guantanamo detainees face cruel treatment

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The first U.N. independent investigator to visit the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay said Monday the 30 men held there are subject “to ongoing cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment under international law.”

The investigator, Irish law professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, said at a news conference releasing her 23-page report to the U.N. Human Rights Council that the 2001 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania that killed nearly 3,000 people were “crimes against humanity.” But she said the U.S. use of torture and rendition against alleged perpetrators and their associates in the years right after the attacks violated international human rights law — and in many cases deprived the victims and survivors of justice because information obtained by torture cannot be used at trials.

Ní Aoláin said her visit marked the first time a U.S. administration has allowed a U.N. investigator to visit the facility, which opened in 2002.

She praised the Biden administration for leading by example by opening up Guantanamo and “being prepared to address the hardest human rights issues,” and urged other

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia was investigating whether Western intelligence services were involved in Prigozhin’s rebellion.

Over the course of a tumultuous weekend in Russia, U.S. diplomats were in contact with their counterparts in Moscow to underscore that the American government regarded the matter as a domestic affair for Russia, with the U.S. only a bystander, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

Michael McFaul, a former U.S. ambassador to Russia, said that Putin in the past has alleged clandestine U.S. involvement in events — including democratic uprisings in former Soviet countries, and campaigns by democracy activists inside and outside Russia — as a way to diminish public support among Russians for those challenges to the Russian system.

The U.S. and NATO “don’t want to be blamed for the appearance of trying to destabilize Putin,” McFaul said.

detainee I met with lives with the unrelenting harms that follow from systematic practices of rendition, torture and arbitrary detention.”

Ní Aoláin, concurrently a professor at the University of Minnesota and at Queen’s University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, said there was “a heartfelt response” by many detainees to seeing someone who was neither a lawyer nor associated with the detention center, some for the first time in 20 years. During the visit, she said, she and her team scrutinized every aspect of Guantanamo.

Ní Aoláin said many detainees she met showed evidence of “deep psychological harm and distress — including profound anxiety, helplessness, hopelessness, stress and depression, and dependency.”

She expressed grave concern at the failure of the U.S. government to provide torture rehabilitation programs to the detainees and said the specialist care and facilities at Guantanamo “are not adequate to meet the complex and urgent mental and physical health issues of detainees” ranging from permanent disabilities and traumatic brain injuries to chronic pain, gastrointestinal and urinary issues.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's premier says economic growth can hit its 5% target this year

BEIJING (AP)—China’s No. 2 leader said Tuesday that economic growth accelerated in the latest quarter and expressed confidence it can hit the ruling Communist Party’s official target of 5% for the year. Premier Li Qiang, speaking at a conference in the eastern city of Tianjin, gave no figure for the three months ending in June but said it was faster than the previous quarter’s 4.5%. The world’s second-largest economy rebounded from 2022’s unusually weak 3% growth following the end of anti-virus controls on travel and business activity. But that faded faster than expected. Consumer and factory activity weakened in May and record-setting youth unemployment spiked up. “It

is expected that the second quarter will be faster than the first quarter,” Li said at the World Economic Forum. “We expect to achieve the economic growth rate of about 5% determined at the start of the year.” Private sector forecasters expect China’s economic output to grow by at least 5% this year, but some have cut their outlooks following May’s weak activity.

PH forces search for ex-vice mayor who resisted arrest, sparking deadly clash

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine forces searched Monday for a former town vice mayor whose armed followers helped him resist arrest, triggering a gunbattle that left four people dead and displaced thousands of villagers in the south, officials said.

Good Housekeeping

The ultimate guide to caring for your throw pillows

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

Throw pillows are delightful accents that add personality, comfort, and style to any space. But without proper care, they can lose their luster over time.

Whether you have a collection of vibrant decorative pillows or cozy accent cushions, we're here to share essential tips and tricks to keep them looking their best. From the life cycle of a pillow, to cleaning techniques and storage solutions, let's explore the secrets to maintaining the longevity and beauty of your throw pillows.

The process of creating a pillow

I think it's important to first understand how a custom pillow is made, to better appreciate the care that goes into maintaining the pieces. Crafting our throw pillows by hand is a meticulous and artful process that ensures the utmost attention to detail and quality.

We begin by selecting the dimensions of the pillow we want to create, which determines the size of the pillow fill. This is followed by choosing the perfect pattern placement. Pillow fronts and backs are then cut by hand, intentionally finished 1 inch smaller than the fill to achieve the beautifully overstuffed look we love. If trims are incorporated, they are thoughtfully sewn to the fronts in a vertical, horizontal or framed design. For those who desire monograms

or other added designs, they are carefully embroidered onto the fronts.

Next, we carefully select the perimeter trim, which can vary from contrast cording to self-welt, 1-inch flange, ruffled edges, knife pleats and more, providing various options to suit individual tastes. A hidden zipper is then attached to the bottom with a back flap, allowing effortless pillow sham change-up seasonally. Once the fronts and backs are sewn together, turned, and pressed, we add the finishing touch of our label, discreetly tucked under the zipper flap.

Each and every pillow we create is a labor of love, meticulously sewn together by professional seamstresses who share a deep passion for their craft. We take immense pride in crafting pillows that are not only functional and comfortable, but also works of art that enhance any spaces they adorn.

Opt for a plump pillow look

To achieve a fuller and more luxurious look, choose a pillow insert that is slightly larger than the size of the sham. This technique creates a plump and inviting appearance, adding an extra touch of opulence to your pillows.

We make our custom shams 1 inch smaller than the fill to achieve the really full look. By selecting a fill that extends beyond the sham edges, you can achieve a beautifully overstuffed look that exudes elegance and comfort. This pil-



HANDOUT/TNS
To achieve a fuller and more luxurious look, choose a pillow insert that is slightly larger than the size of the sham.

low styling technique ensures that your pillows become a focal point of your decor, providing a touch of lavishness to any room.

Our fills are typically a goose/down mixture, but it is a completely customizable experience. Synthetic fill is a fantastic option for people with allergies. (One thing to keep in mind is a synthetic fill doesn't have the same fullness as and

feel of down.) We believe that ordering pillows should allow you to create a room as unique as you are, and be tailored to your unique preferences.

The proper way to store your throw pillows

One of the best things about throw pillows is they are easy to swap with the seasons, and they can absolutely transform the look of a room with each

new succession. This is a trick Mary Carol Garrity uses to refresh spaces in her own home. But when it comes to storing your throw pillows that are not in use, proper care is key to ensure their longevity.

Typically, I reuse the inserts and rotate and store the shams. Before stashing them away, though, it's essential to clean the pillows according to their specific material and care instructions. Once they are clean and dry, consider using breathable storage bags or pillowcases to protect them from dust, dirt, and potential damage. Avoid storing them in plastic bags, as they can trap moisture and lead to mildew or odors. Find a cool, dry and well-ventilated area to store your pillows, away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures and humidity. If space allows, try to store them in a horizontal position to maintain their shape. By taking these simple storage precautions, you can ensure that your throw pillows remain fresh, plump and ready to adorn your living spaces whenever you decide to bring them back out.

When it comes to handling your pillows, it's essential to follow proper care techniques to maintain their pristine appearance. Avoid the temptation to grab them by the corners (or even a single corner, gasp!) and toss them around. Instead, opt for a gentle approach by scooping them up from the sides or grasping them at the top and bottom. This technique prevents dis-

tortion of the fabric. Grabbing the corners can lead to stretched-out corners, which can detract from the overall aesthetic of your pillows—not a good look.

Cleaning your throw pillows

When it comes to caring for custom throw pillows, bedding and draperies, we highly recommend opting for professional dry cleaning. This method ensures that your cherished pieces are handled with the utmost care, preventing any potential shrinkage and maintaining their original color vibrancy. Dry cleaning is particularly beneficial for delicate fabrics and intricate designs, as it helps preserve their beauty and longevity. Trusting the expertise of professional cleaners will give you peace of mind..

To freshen up feather pillow inserts, a simple and effective method is to place them in a tumble dryer on low heat for about 10 minutes. This gentle process helps fluff up the feathers. It's important to avoid high heat, which can damage the feathers. Additionally, adding a clean tennis ball or dryer balls can aid in the fluffing process by gently agitating the pillows.

Taking proper care of your throw pillows is essential for preserving their beauty and functionality. By following these tips and techniques, you can extend the lifespan of your pillows and ensure they continue to enhance your home decor for years to come.

Found a rat in your house? Here's how to get rid of it

By HUNTER BOYCE
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

It's the middle of the night, and you're sound asleep. A noise jolts you awake, and you hear the pitter-patter of tiny, scurrying feet. A quick, anxious inspection of your space reveals a pile of droppings under your bed. You have rats living just feet away from where you sleep.

It's a frightening thing to wake up to, and an unsettling thing to think about. But it happens to homeowners each and every day. Luckily, getting rid of rats is easier than you might think.

Here are a few DIY pest control tips to help you get rid of that unwanted critter in your house—quick and easy.

According to the pros at DIY Pest Control, the first step of rat control can be broken down into three parts—inspection, sanitation, and exclusion.



DREAMSTIME/TNS

According to the pros at DIY Pest Control, the first step of rat control can be broken down into three parts—inspection, sanitation, and exclusion.

on the other hand, more often nest in rooms, behind major kitchen appliances and even inside furniture.

From room to room, give your home a full inspection to narrow down where the pests are active within your home. Look for signs of drop-

pings, the smell of ammonia, the sound of scurrying within your walls and any visible damage to your property.

Next, it's time to seal off any entry points that could be giving the pests access to your home.

"Exclusion is an important rodent control technique," DIY Pest Control reported. "It will eliminate the rats by making it difficult for them to enter the home or structure. Rats are easier to exclude than mice because rats are typically larger. Mice can enter an opening as small as 3/8-inch wide. All openings greater than 1/4 inch should be sealed to exclude mice. For rats, all openings greater than 1/2 inches should be sealed."

For a quick (but temporary) fix, block any open space where rats may be traveling with steel wool.

Finally, sanitize your living

space. Even a clean home can attract rats and mice, but giving your home a good spring cleaning will help suppress any lingering odors that may be attracting the pests.

Once your home has been inspected, cleaned and fortified, the next step is baiting and trapping. This process requires patience and a little know-how, but it can be done.

"Rats (especially roof rats) are wary of new objects, new foods, or environmental changes," DIY Pest Control reported. "They are always exploring surroundings and notice changes, and are suspicious by nature. Their suspicious nature is why traps and bait stations may be avoided for a day or two. They approach new food or objects with caution. Within a rat colony, they may be a few extra cautious rats that manage to avoid traps or eating rodent baits."

For a rat trap to work, it needs to be baited with the scent of other rats, needs to give off the appearance of cozy shelter and needs to be placed somewhere near where they are already active. Once placed, a rat trap could take days, or even weeks, to be successful.

According to Smith's Pest Management, the belief that rats should be baiting exclusively with food is a misconception.

"When we put out rat traps baited with food, they're not very appealing to rats," the pest control company reported. "While the myth is that putting a trap with peanut butter on it will attract a rat, that usually doesn't work. The rats often enter trap boxes and bait stations because they like the cozy shelter. In our experience, you need to understand two things if you want to control rats effectively: They are curious, and they are cautious."

For a rat trap to work, it needs to be baited with the scent of other rats, needs to give off the appearance of cozy shelter and needs to be placed somewhere near where they are already active. Once placed, a rat trap could take days, or even weeks, to be successful.

Life & Style

Tom premieres new 'Mission Impossible' adventure in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The red carpet unfurled Monday in Abu Dhabi for Hollywood action megastar Tom Cruise, who was on hand for the Middle Eastern premiere of "Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part One."

Cruise was met by an enthusiastic crowd of fans and movie buffs eager to catch a glimpse of the star at the Emirates Palace Hotel in the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

Dressed in a tailored tuxedo and flashing his signature smile, Cruise appeared moved by the exuberant reception, stopping to speak with many attendees. The evening's buzz was punctuated by the "Mission: Impossible" theme, its familiar chords adding a layer of cinematic nostalgia to the night.

"I'm a cinephile, I love movies and the history of cinema and how this art form develops," Cruise told The Associated Press on the red carpet. "I didn't know whether the audience was going to embrace (the first Mission: Impossible movie), it was the first film I ever produced and I did it because



Hayley Atwell, from left, Tom Cruise and Pom Klementieff pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film "Mission Impossible, Dead Reckoning Part One", at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Monday, June 26, 2023. AP

I wanted to challenge myself in many ways as an actor, as a producer, as a storyteller."

"Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One" is the seventh installment of the blockbuster \$3.5 billion grossing franchise famed for

The Mission: Impossible series follows the globe-trotting

jam-packed action and ever-daring stunts performed by the 60-year-old Cruise himself.

"We've had a lot of fun coming up with these moments," said Cruise.

The Mission: Impossible

adventures of Ethan Hunt, a secret agent of the Impossible Missions Force, or IMF, as he undertakes high-risk covert operations. Picture heart-racing action, sophisticated gad-

gets, and Cruise's Hunt executing death-defying stunts at every turn.

Matching the topic of the moment, Hunt and his IMF team are tasked with tracking

Sarah undergoes surgery following breast cancer diagnosis

LONDON (AP)—Sarah, the Duchess of York, underwent surgery after being diagnosed with breast cancer, according to a spokesperson.

The 63-year-old was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer following a routine mammogram. The surgery was a success and Sarah's prognosis is good, the duch-

ess's spokesperson said. She was released from King Edward VII's Hospital in London on Sunday to recuperate at home in Windsor.

Sarah, the former wife of Prince Andrew and the mother of Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, spoke about the diagnosis on her new podcast, "Tea Talks

with the Duchess and Sarah," set to be released Monday. She recorded the segment before her operation.

Once a favorite target of Britain's tabloids, the former Sarah Ferguson has previously published her memoirs and authored a number of children's books as well as a historical romance for adults.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP)—An Amsterdam museum that severed ties with St. Petersburg's Hermitage collection after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine last year has been renamed and on Monday announced partnerships with renowned galleries in London, Paris and Washington, D.C.

Starting in September, the Hermitage Amsterdam will be called H'ART Museum. It has

established partnerships with the British Museum, Centre Pompidou and the Smithsonian American Art Museum to bring art to the historic building on the banks of the Dutch capital's Amstel River.

"It's an exciting new step for us, a contemporary and future-proof model," museum director Annabelle Birnie said in a statement.

She said the museum's

program will be "multi-voiced reflecting the times we live in" and will range from major art exhibitions to smaller presentations.

The first major show—scheduled to open midway through 2024—will be a partnership with Paris' Centre Pompidou focused on Wassily Kandinsky, the Russian-born artist who became a French citizen and died in France in 1944.

Man's treatment of female relatives has crossed line

DEAR ABBY: My daughter "Lia" and her husband, "Jerry," visited his mother and stepdad, "Gil," a few months ago. Gil gave Lia an inappropriate hug, with his hand sliding to her buttocks. Lia said Gil had done this before and it made her uncomfortable. She told Jerry, and he began watching his stepdad closely when they visited.

Recently, my family and I visited Jerry's parents. Gil gave me a hug around my back, and then slid his hand down my back and grabbed MY buttock with a quick squeeze! His wife was standing in front of us when he did it. I looked at her in shock. She looked down at the floor and then at me, expressionless. After I told my daughter what he had done, she told me he had done it to her as well.

My son-in-law wants to tell his mother he doesn't feel comfortable leaving his young daughters at their house. I know Lia and I should have said something when it happened, but we were caught off guard and didn't call him on it. How do you think this should be handled?

CAUGHT OFF GUARD

DEAR CAUGHT OFF GUARD: Your daughter was right to tell her husband what his stepdad has been doing, and you should tell him, too, if you haven't already done it. Gil's behavior is extremely inappropriate. It's interesting that he doesn't discriminate—any buttock within reach appears to be fair game.

You, your daughter and Jerry need to explain that fact to Jerry's mother and her husband. From now on, it makes sense that Jerry's mother should visit her little granddaughters at Lia and Jerry's without her spouse.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a high school senior who has dated a girl off and on. The first time, we didn't have a ton in common, but we enjoyed each other's company. She liked another guy, so after about three months, she broke up with me. I was OK with it.

This year, I started hanging out with her again. We started kissing right away. She found someone online that she somehow got attracted to within a matter of hours, and two days later I was dumped again. Her parents took her phone away the next day. She now says she regrets dumping me and I'm always on her mind at some point in the day.

She doesn't have high self-esteem or self-confidence. I think she feels disconnected because of her many years of homeschooling. She's also extremely depressed, I can tell that much. She has been talking to a therapist for a year, but it hasn't helped, and she's trying another one soon.

I don't know how to help her or whether I should date her again. I love her, though, and I want to know her better, but we are both confused. I worry I'm not a good fit for her even if we are attracted. Please tell me how I can help her.

BOY IN LOVE IN GEORGIA

DEAR BOY IN LOVE: You are right that the girl

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

you're describing is "confused." She's not ready for a relationship with anyone at this point. Before you can help her, it is important that you help yourself by recognizing that her problems are more complicated than you can deal with.

This is not a reflection on you. Caring for her -- loving her—is not enough. For your sake, take a step back. Be the friend she needs but do not count on her for anything more until she has dealt with the issues that challenge her.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Mets drop 8 games under .500, lose to Brewers, 2-1



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—
B u c k

Showalter's solution for his struggling New York Mets seems simple enough.

"Win," the manager said. "It's not complicated."

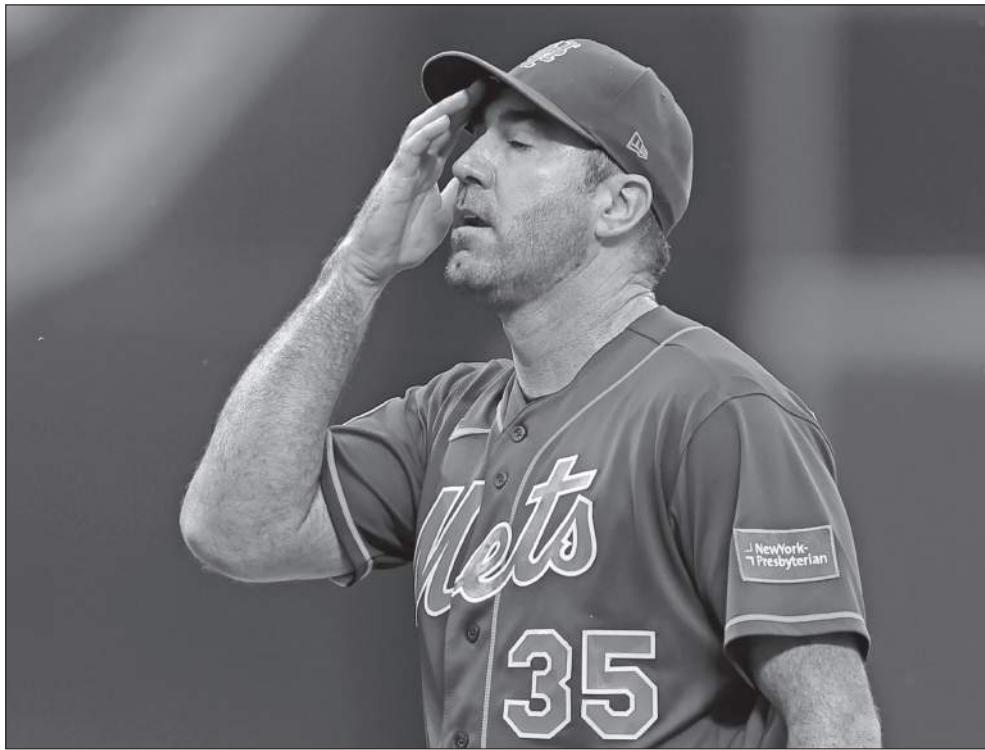
So far, not much has worked out. The Mets fell a season-worst eight games under .500 after Joey Wiemer hit a go-ahead, two-run homer to straightaway centerfield in the sixth inning that lifted the Milwaukee Brewers to a 2-1 victory on Monday night.

New York, which won 101 games and shared the NL East title last year in Showalter's first season, is 35-43 despite entering the season with a major league record \$355 million payroll. The Mets have lost seven of nine and are 6-15 since completing a three-game sweep of Philadelphia on June 1—their most recent series win.

"It's always about now and the heck with what happened last year or or last week or tonight," Showalter said. "You've got to get it fixed."

Francisco Lindor hit a sacrifice fly in the fourth for the Mets, who trail NL East-leading Atlanta by 16 games and are 8 1/2 games back of the third wild card. New York is eight games under .500 for the first time since ending the 2021 season at 77-85.

"I don't think anybody saw this coming, man," said Mets starter Justin Verlander, who threw five scoreless but laborious innings and has a 4.11 ERA in 10 starts since signing an \$86.7 million, two-year deal. "Disappointing. It's dis-



AP

New York Mets pitcher Justin Verlander reacts during the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Monday, June 26, 2023, in New York.

appointing for everybody in this room, I know. It's disappointing for the fans. Just got to keep trying."

Colin Rea (4-4) retired his first eight batters for the Brewers and allowed one run in 6 1/3 innings. Hoby Milner (four outs), Elvis Peguero (one) and Devon Williams (three) completed a three-hitter.

Williams got his 14th save in 15 chances as Milwaukee retired the final 11 Mets in order on just 34 pitches.

"Three hits—kind of tough," Showalter said. "We pitched pretty well, all things considered. You'd like to take advantage of that, but we didn't."

Milwaukee stranded eight runners against Verlander, who gave up five hits and

struck out five while throwing 100 pitches.

ANGELS 2, WHITE SOX 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout scored on a game-ending wild pitch, Shohei Ohtani hit his 26th home run, and Los Angeles beat Chicago.

Trout slid home head-first on the bad throw by Aaron Bummer, helping the Angels get a critical seven-game homestand off to a successful start.

Carlos Estévez (2-1) pitched a scoreless ninth inning to get the win.

Luis Robert Jr. homered for the third straight game for the White Sox. Reynaldo López (2-5) took the loss after walk-

ing Trout to start the ninth. Bummer then came in to face Ohtani, who drew his own walk. The two Angels superstars successfully executed a double steal, leading to Trout's heroics.

BRAVES 4, TWINS 1

ATLANTA (AP)—Marcell Ozuna hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh and Spencer Strider (9-2) allowed three hits in seven innings while striking out 10 to win his fifth consecutive decision.

Ronald Acuña Jr. added a two-run homer in a three-run seventh. In the matchup of first-place teams in the NL East and AL Central, the Braves won for the 11th time in 12 games.

Minnesota played its first

game at Truist Park, which opened in 2017.

Before Ozuna's homer, the only run allowed by Sonny Gray (4-2) when Travis d'Arnaud drove in a run while grounding into a forceout.

Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for his first save since 2020.

MARINERS 8, NATIONALS 4

SEATTLE (AP)—J.P. Crawford and Eugenio Suárez both homered, and Luis Castillo overcame a shaky beginning to pitch seven strong innings and win his first start since May 27.

Seattle opened its final homestand before hosting the All-Star Game next month and needed its offense to come through as Castillo wasn't at his best early on.

Suárez homered leading off the fourth inning against Washington starter Trevor Williams, and Julio Rodríguez's two-out RBI single pulled Seattle even at 3-3. Seattle's three-run fifth inning against Washington's Cory Abbott (0-1) proved to be the difference.

Castillo (5-6) allowed seven hits, struck out seven and snapped a personal four-game losing streak. Paul Sewald struck out Jeimer Candelario with the bases loaded to end the game for his 14th save.

TIGERS 7, RANGERS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Andy Ibáñez and Jake Rogers homered as Detroit overcame the early departures of their first two pitchers to beat AL West-leading Texas.

Tigers starter Matthew

Boyd and reliever Will Vest were already hurt and out of the game before Ibáñez hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the third inning for a 4-1 lead. Rogers added a two-run shot with two outs in the sixth to chase Texas starter Andrew Heaney (5-5).

Rookie Mason Englert (3-2), the third of six Detroit pitchers who combined for 16 strikeouts, allowed one run over 2 1/3 innings.

ORIOLES 10, REDS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jordan Westburg had a productive night at the plate and made a slick defensive play in his big league debut to lead Baltimore.

The game started 15 minutes late because of the weather, and there was another delay of 1 hour, 44 minutes in the third inning. Baltimore led 2-1 when play was halted, then quickly started adding runs after it resumed.

Westburg, one of the game's top infield prospects, was called up before the game and started at second base. He had a hit, a walk, a run and an RBI, and in the fifth, he nearly started a double play by flipping the ball with his glove to shortstop Jorge Mateo on a grounder up the middle.

Bruce Zimmermann (1-0) pitched three innings after the long rain delay in relief of Cole Irvin.

Spencer Steer homered for the Reds, who have dropped three in a row following a 12-game winning streak. Brandon Williamson (1-1) threw 64 pitches in the first two innings.

Players returning from LIV Golf is part of Saudis' agreement with PGA Tour

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

The PGA Tour and European tour have agreed to work with Saudi backers of LIV Golf to decide how defectors to the rival league can return and what kind of punishment they should face, according to a framework agreement obtained by The Associated Press.

The agreement also said the for-profit company to be formed by the PGA Tour and the Saudis will be the "entity for professional golf" and that the tours will coexist with LIV Golf.

The framework agreement, signed on May 30, was among documents requested by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., for a July 11 hearing in Washington. Blumenthal chairs the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

"Our goal is to uncover the facts about what went into the PGA Tour's deal with the Sau-

di Public Investment Fund and what the Saudi takeover means for the future of this cherished American institution and our national interest," Blumenthal said last week.

The PGA Tour has said it would participate, though it was not clear if Commissioner Jay Monahan would attend. He stepped away on June 13

—one week after the stunning deal was announced—for a "medical situation" and turned day-to-day operations over to two executives.

LIV Golf returns this week in Spain and at least finishes the 2023 season, if not beyond. The agreement says the PGA Tour and European tour "will work cooperatively and in good faith to establish a fair and objective process for any players who desire to re-apply for membership ... and for determining fair criteria and terms of readmission consistent with each Tour's

disciplinary policies."

The PGA Tour suspended players once they competed in a LIV event because they did not have releases required under the tour's policy. The suspensions are believed to be at least through the 2024 season.

The AP previously reported on the assurances in the agreement that the tour would keep a controlling interest in the new commercial entity—known for now as "NewCo"—regardless of how much the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia contributes.

The framework agreement sent to Blumenthal is lacking details that all three sides are still trying to work out, such as the future of LIV Golf.

It did not mention how much the PIF planned to invest in the new entity. The PGA Tour and DP World Tour—the commercial name of the European tour—are contributing all their

commercial businesses and rights. NewCo would be an umbrella for all future golf-related investments of the three groups.

NewCo is to conduct an "objective empirical data-driven evaluation of LIV and its prospects and potential" and assess the benefits of team golf and then decide "how best to integrate team golf into PGA Tour and DP World Tour events going forward," the agreement says.

Monahan, as CEO of the new entity, would determine the plan and strategy of NewCo operations, which would include LIV.

The second paragraph of the six-page agreement referred to as the Saudi fund and two leading tours creating a global golf partnership and "unifying the game." It later mentions the new entity's plan to create financial returns, "including through targeted mergers and

acquisitions to globalize the sport."

The PGA Tour and European tour already have an alliance, and other tours such as Japan and South Africa have similar agreements. The Asian Tour is affiliated with LIV Golf.

The agreement also says the tours and the PIF would work together to try to get the Official World Golf Ranking to recognize LIV Golf, though that would be subject to OWGR criteria and the application that LIV filed last July. LIV fails to meet several criteria, in part because its events have no cuts and 48-man fields.

The PIF, along with investing in the new commercial entity, would make a financial investment as a "premier corporate sponsor" of the PGA Tour or European tour, invest in becoming a title sponsor on one of the tours and contribute to a program geared toward growing the game.

The PIF sponsors the Saudi International, which previously was part of the European tour.

The agreement also laid out a timeline to reach a definitive deal by Dec. 31. If it's not done by then, the parties can agree to extend the deadline or go back to business as usual.

A key part of the agreement was to dismiss all litigation—the antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour and the tour's countersuit against LIV Golf in which the PIF was a co-defendant. A federal judge in California dismissed those lawsuits last week.

The PGA Tour board has a previously scheduled meeting Tuesday in Detroit, though board members are not expected to take any actions because so many details have yet to be worked out. Also, the Justice Department is still examining the agreement, part of a review that began last summer shortly after LIV Golf launched.

Wembanyama won't play for France at this year's World Cup



SAN ANTONIO
(AP)—Victor Wembanyama has some bad news for France.

The No. 1 draft pick told L'Equipe newspaper he won't play with his national basketball team at this year's World Cup in order to protect his still developing body, and will instead take that time to continue preparing for his rookie season with the San Antonio Spurs.

Wembanyama said it was a difficult decision to make, adding that it is irrevocable.

"I've decided to dedicate this summer to preparing my body for the many events awaiting it in the coming years," he said. "This meant skipping the World Cup. It was a difficult decision, and one that required the advice of many people. But I sincerely believe it's the best one for the French team and myself."

The top pick in this year's NBA draft had previously said he wanted to play in the tournament, which runs from Aug. 25 through Sept. 10 and will have France among the medal favorites. But both he and the Spurs suggested in recent days that his participation was no longer certain.

Wembanyama said he consulted with close friends and his medical team. He told the France coach and other players from the team about his decision over the weekend, L'Equipe reported on Monday.

Wembanyama said he was not pressured by the Spurs in any way.

"They know what's at stake," he said. "But they would have supported me whatever my choice. In the past, as soon as I could go to international competitions, I did. I've never been able to

enjoy a summer with several months of development for my body. For this new phase of my life, it's essential. The Spurs staff are ready to make this summer profitable. We can't afford for it to be wasted time."

If Wembanyama sticks with his decision, it will mean that he won't be playing with France at a major tournament until next year's Paris Olympics.

The Spurs chose the 19-year-old prodigy, who arrives with enormous expectations to become basketball's newest sensation.

Wembanyama comes with far more height and hype than most No. 1 picks. Listed at 7-foot-4, he dominated the French league in his final season, leading all players in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots.

Wembanyama said he hesitated a lot and pointed to the need to preserve his body, which he already put to the test during a long season with his Boulogne-Levallois Metropolitans 92 club, which reached the finals in the French league.

He said after that stretch, taking part in the World Cup and then playing with the Spurs and following up the NBA season with the Olympics would have been too much to take.

"My body is like a prototype," he said. "I can't base myself on people who look like me. So you need specific preparation, personalized anticipation. You can't leave anything to chance. There's a real risk of overload, and therefore of injury, which could have an impact on what happens next."

Wembanyama played in 48 games, including the play-



San Antonio Spurs' Victor Wembanyama, the No. 1 draft pick, handles a ball during an NBA basketball press conference, Saturday, June 24, 2023, at the AT&T Center in San Antonio.

offs and two exhibitions near Las Vegas last fall, in his recently completed season for Boulogne-Levallois—a team coached by Vincent Collet, who also coaches the French national team. The French season for Wembanyama stretched from September through a league finals ap-

pearance earlier this month.

The NBA season is 82 games, not including pre-season and possibly post-season contests. If he played at the World Cup, Wembanyama wouldn't have given his body much of a break to rest and prepare for the far more demanding rigors of

an NBA schedule.

"It would be unrealistic in terms of development and unwise in terms of health," Wembanyama said.

And it's clear that, at least for this summer, he's decided that his focus will fully be on the Spurs.

"I'm trying to learn and be as objective as I can to become the best," Wembanyama said over the weekend, when he visited his new home arena for the first time. "But I'm also trying to be myself and not let anyone change the way I want to be, change the way I want to play. And I think this is really the way to become the best version of myself I can be as a player."

Wembanyama is expected to play in Summer League with the Spurs in the coming weeks; it remains unclear if he'll participate in the California Classic that Sacramen-

to will play host to starting July 3, the bigger NBA Summer League in Las Vegas that starts July 7, or both. World Cup practices with the French team would have started not long after Summer League, and the FIBA tournament will end about three weeks before NBA training camps open.

The French federation is expected to release its preliminary roster for the World Cup later this week. France lost the gold medal game at the most recent major international tournament—the Tokyo Olympics—to the United States in 2021, and won the bronze medal at the last World Cup at China in 2019.

"The French team is as central to my career as ever. I want to win every title I can with them. But to achieve that, this summer is a necessary sacrifice," Wembanyama said.

Timberwolves, Naz Reid agree to 3-year, \$42M deal

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves have kept center Naz Reid off the market by agreeing to terms on a three-year, \$42 million contract that comes with a player option after two seasons.

The deal, which was struck Sunday night, was confirmed Monday by Reid's agents, Sean Kennedy and Jeff Schwartz of Excel Sports Management.

Reid was eligible to become an unrestricted free agent this weekend following a breakout year on both ends of the court for the Timberwolves, who already have made major investments in big men Rudy Gobert and Karl-Anthony Towns yet still valued Reid's upside enough to make him a well-paid backup.

"When we struggled early, he was one of the guys that played well," coach Chris Finch said after the season ended. "He made the system work with his decision-making, whether he played the '4' or the backup '5' or started. Then when KAT came back, he naturally settled in as a key bench player. He was playing at a high, high level. He just proved he can play in all these different roles, which is valuable, then obviously just a perfect system fit."

Undrafted out of LSU in 2019, the 6-foot-9 Reid has become one of the most popular players inside and outside the team for his steady development, even-keeled demeanor and ferocious dunks. He averaged 11.5 points and shot 53.7% from the floor in 68 games in 2022-23, both career bests.

"I know he can guard three positions," Connelly said, "and then offensively we'll let coach Finch determine where he can best be employed."

Hawks clear cap room, trade Collins to Jazz for Gay, future 2nd rounder

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks cleared significant salary cap space on Monday by agreeing to trade forward John Collins to the Utah Jazz for veteran forward Rudy Gay and a future second-round draft pick, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

Collins, who was the subject of trade speculation during the offseason and again leading up to last week's NBA draft, finally was dealt to Utah, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the trade cannot become official before July 6.

The trade was first reported by ESPN.

Collins, 25, was a first-round pick in 2017 and scored in double figures in

each of his six seasons with Atlanta. He averaged 21.6 points and 10.1 rebounds, both career bests, in the 2019-20 season and 17.6 points per game for the 2021-22 team that advanced to the Eastern Conference finals.

Collins' scoring declined as Trae Young and other players assumed lead scoring roles. He averaged 13.1 points and 6.5 rebounds this season, when the Hawks suffered their second consecutive first-round exit in the playoffs.

With the Hawks looking to clear salary-cap room, Collins, who is guaranteed \$25.3 million in the 2023-24 season, became a much-disputed trade target.

During the draft, the Hawks made a different deal by trading a future sec-

ond-round pick to Boston for Washington State center Mouhammed Gueye, who was a second-round pick by the Celtics. The Hawks selected guard Kobe Bufkin of Michigan in the first round, at No. 15 overall. The Hawks selected wing player Seth Lundy from Penn State at No. 46 overall.

After the draft, Hawks general manager Landry Fields said he didn't consider the team's need to clear salary cap space a barrier to the 2023-24 season.

"I wouldn't consider it something that's necessarily difficult," Fields said. "I don't know if that's the right word for it. I think we have things we can look at in time, but I also think part of this is about development and improving our roster that way."

Gay, 36, is due approximately \$6.5 million next season, creating significant savings for Atlanta.

Collins (6-foot-9, 235) brings size and scoring potential to a Utah front line that also includes Lauri Markkanen, 2023 rookie Walker Kessler and last week's No. 9 overall pick, Taylor Hendricks, a power forward from Central Florida.

Collins' exit could create more playing time for young forwards AJ Griffin and Jalen Johnson, as well as veteran Saddiq Bey.

Gay (6-8, 250) averaged 5.2 points in 56 games, all as a backup, for Utah in the 2022-23 season. He has averaged 15.8 points per game for his career, including a personal-best 21.1 for Sacramento in the 2014-15 season.

The Timberwolves also drafted 6-foot-10 project Leonard Miller in the second round (33rd overall pick) of the NBA draft last week. The 19-year-old from Toronto averaged 16.9 points and 10.1 rebounds in 38 games last season for his G League Ignite team.

Timberwolves president of basketball operations Tim Connelly said Monday at an introductory news conference for Miller that he envisions him being able to play both forward spots as well as center.

"I know he can guard three positions," Connelly said, "and then offensively we'll let coach Finch determine where he can best be employed."

Suel, Saralu tied for batting leader in SBL

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER


As of Friday, June 23, J.R. Suel III from the Junior Nationals and Nokki Saralu of the Cardinals are tied as batting leaders in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League standings.

Suel and Saralu both have a batting average of .556. Suel has hit 10 out of 18 at-bats and Saralu has hit 15 out of 27 at-bats.

Brian Camacho is third with a .517 batting average from 15 out of 29 hits; Alden Ngeskebei, Isaiah Teigita, and Jylon Sablan are tied with a .500 average; Shane Yamada has a

.458 average; Isaiah Lizama has a .450 average; Nathan Camacho has a .429; and Gerald Cabrera has a .391.

Saralu also leads the runs scored category with 18; Shane Yamada has 16; Jylon Sablan has 13; Isaiah Teigita and Eli Aughenbaugh have 12 each; and Nathan Camacho, Isaiah Lizama, and Gerald Cabrera have 11 each.

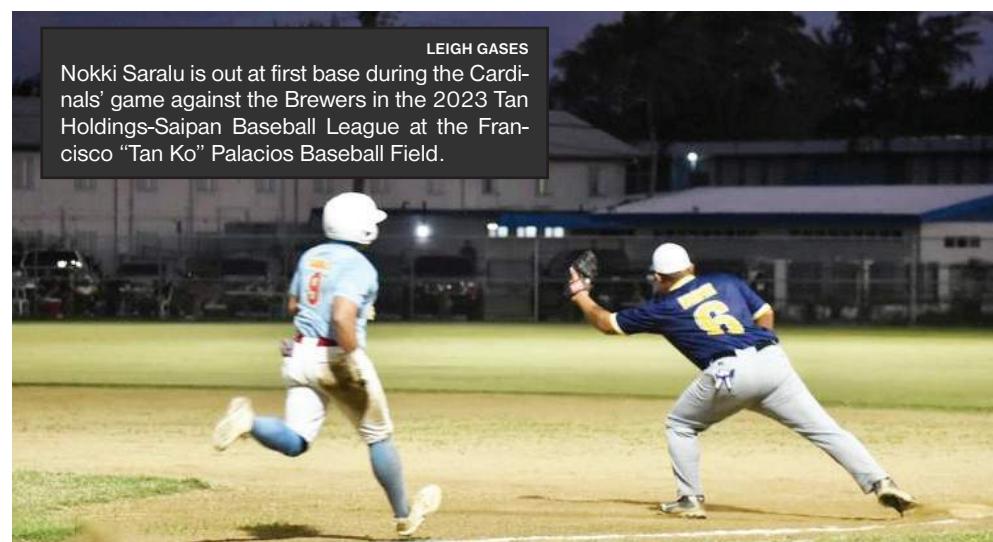
Brian Camacho leads the doubles category with four; J.R. Suel, Poland Masaharu, Henry Lizama, Vicente Camacho, and Shane Yamada have three each; and there are nine players tied with two each.

Brian Camacho and Poland Masaharu are tied for the lead in RBIs with 12 each; Saralu has 11; Nathan Camacho has 10; Shane Yamada has nine;

Micronesia's Hugh Kent.

For Tan, she said "Even though it wasn't a PR, I'm still happy with how I did in the 3,000m because I was able to score points for our team, which is all that matters."

As for the Oceania Cup experience, she said "It was overall a good experience. It's nice having more competition



and Achilles Evangelista, Kazu Dela Cruz, Giovanni Mira, Franco Nakamura, and Jerome Delos Santos are tied with eight each.

The triples leader is a tie

between Josenio Alvarez and Brian Camacho with three each; Ben Leon Guerrero, Saralu, Narry Nakamura, Jordan Suel, and J-Boy Mendiola are tied with two each; 10

players are tied at one each.

Only three batters have hit a home run so far—Devyn Flores, Henry Lizama, and Saralu.

Over in the pitchers stand-

ings, Virgil Secharmidal of the CK Bears led the pitching leaders with a 0 ERA. He has pitched five games, 14 innings, 0 earned runs, has four hits against him, and a 2-0 win-loss record.

R.J. Riungel is second with a .047 ERA, 2-0 record, four hits against him, one earned run, 15 innings, and three games pitched; Jason Reyes is third with a .083 ERA, 1-1 record, 25 hits against him, three earned runs, 25.2 innings, and eight games pitched.

Isaiah Teigita is still the strikeout king with 39; Jose Lizama Jr. has 33; Kevin Kapileo has 27; Jason Reyes has 26; Angelo Igitol and Virgil Secharmidal have 25 each; M.J. Sakisat has 24; R.J. Riungel has 22; Tony Benavente has 17; and Giovanni Ayuyu has 16.

Micronesia's Jaedon Waay placed sixth with a time of 2:25.32; and seventh was Simon Tang at 2:27.59.

In the women's 800m, Australia's Nyree Hamilton took the gold with a time of 2:10.96; silver went to Australia's Lily Mather at 2:12.15; bronze went to Scholastica Herman of Melanesia at 2:13.80; fourth place went to Polynesia's Amandine Matera at 2:22.73; The CNMI's Kaithlyn Chavez was fifth place at 2:29.24; and sixth place went to Micronesia's Keira Paz at 2:49.33.

among international athletes from all over the Pacific. It pushes you to train harder and run faster during races. It's an eye-opener and motivator to keep working hard to improve because everyone is so good. I'm glad I was able to finish both races healthy."

Tang, with the Oceania Cup being his first international

competition, said "I never expected to place, but it felt good crossing the finish line knowing that I got third. This 3,000m race felt shorter than usual, but the weather was really hot and humid when it started at 3:20pm. Overall, joining Oceania was a great experience. I got to meet other athletes, made new friends,

and learned what to expect in future competitions."

In the men's and women's 800m, the CNMI did not have a podium finish, but still ran and pushed as hard and fast as they could.

First place in the men's 800m was Melanesia's Adolf Kauba at 1:57.25; second was Polynesia's Rylie Cabalse at 2:02.34; third was Polynesia's Sione Taufelungake with a time of 2:03.24; fourth place went to Micronesia's Hugh Kent at 2:07.20; fifth was the CNMI's Cody Shimizu with a time of 2:13.03;

PIKABOO

From page 20

against his father always ensures a tough but fun race.

"The first heat was pretty grueling as I didn't ride for two months and I had to work my way up from fifth off the start. Got up to second by the third and fourth lap then my arms burned out half way and I almost got passed by Dave Celis who was in third place but I was able to hold him off. I felt warmed up and I fueled well for the second heat which did me good."

Shane said he and Ellery Cruz were actually "tire to tire" in the first turn off the start, but luckily he had the inside line and was able to secure the holeshot.

"From there I tried my best to pull away from the pack and use the dusty condition to try and blast a dust cloud on every turn that may slow down the rest of the group. I knew my dad was going to catch up and when he does he really pressures you to make mistakes. Luckily I was hitting my lines and was able to hold him at a steady distance of about three seconds and after the 10th lap he started to give up on trying to catch me," he added.

Despite the win, he admitted

that his father is still the king of the road in the Expert Class.

"Getting first on the second heat got me the overall but we are still tied on points for the day and he's still leading by a solid 18 points for the season. I'm gonna try my best as always but my dad is still the man even at 52 [years old] and I can only beat him on a really good day."

As for the track, he said MRA groomed the jumps "so they were smooth although the track was pretty rocky. It was also really dusty which is good for the person in front and bad for everyone else."

He went on to thank his sponsors Trench Tech Racing, Cycles Plus Guam, and the whole MRA board "for another fun race in the books."

In the Intermediate Class, Corry Pangilinan had another perfect race by winning both heats for 50 points. Aric Cruz and Ethan Yumul finished second and third with 44 points and 38 points, respectively.

Maribel Igitol, meanwhile, topped a two-woman race in the Mama's Class with 50 points followed by Merissa Rasa's 44 points.

Results of the other classes in the June 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TANIA

From page 19

Tan placed fifth with a time of 5:07.31. First place went to Australia's Lily Mather with 4:42.10; Australia's Nyree Hamilton was second at 4:42.47; Melanesia's Scholastica Herman was third at 4:52.47; fourth was Polynesia's Amandine Matera at 5:03.71; Melanesia's Mary Tenge was sixth with 5:13.05.

The CNMI's Kaithlyn Chavez came in seventh with a time of 5:25.39; Micronesia's Keira Paz came in eighth at 5:46.79; and CNMI's Tiana Cabrera came in ninth with a time of 5:51.59.

Tang, for his part, finished fourth in the 1,500m race with a time of 4:59.14. Polynesia's Rylie Cabalse took gold with a time of 4:09.44; silver went to Melanesia's Aquila Turalom at 4:09.56; and bronze went to



Team NMI Oceania Cup athletes pose for a photo at the Oleai Sports Complex during the Oceania Cup event last Friday and Saturday.

LEE

From page 20

took part in the 2023 Fight Against Drugs and School Violence Marathon, which was her very first marathon event in South Korea.

She finished the half marathon event in 2:05:08, good for 19th place among the women.

"There were about 1,500 runners in the place. Even though it was raining heavily the night before, the weather during the race day was cool and gloomy, which is perfect condition for runners."

Bang said the most challenging part of the race was trying to overcome jet lag as she just came off a long flight from Rome, Italy.

Like Lee, she dedicated her two marathon conquests in South Korea to her fellow Run Saipan members.

"I thought of my running buddies and fellow members of Run Saipan. For sev-

eral years, I have trained and competed with them, so I could progress, thanks to my friends and Run Saipan."

Asked what's the difference between running in South Korea and Saipan, Bang said it definitely was the weather and the quality of air.

"The sun on Saipan is more intense and hotter than in Korea. Also, Saipan is more humid than Korea, especially the air in Seoul is more stuffy due to traffic and pollution."

Next up for Bang is a full marathon this Saturday, July 1.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. congratulated both Lee and Bang for their latest achievements in South Korea.

"Amazing job and congratulations to both Ann and Mr. Lee for running exceptional times. Run Saipan is always proud of its members. Especially for this one being

they traveled out of the country to get a race in. Kudos to both. We wish good luck for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chong Nam Lee shows off his finisher's medal after completing the 2023 Morning Riverside International Marathon last June 17 in Seoul, South Korea.

Ann as she will compete in her first official full marathon debut."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang in action during the 2023 Morning Riverside International Marathon last June 17 in Seoul, South Korea.



Mets drop 8 games under .500, lose to Brewers, 2-1.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

20 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023

Suel, Saralu tied for batting leader in SBL.

PAGE 19



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tania, Pony place in Oceania Cup 3.000m



Tan

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite competing against more seasoned runners in the Pacific, CNMI runners Tania Tan and Pony Tang made their islands proud as they both had podium finishes in the competitive middle distance 3,000m race of the Oceania Cup last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

For Tan's division, only Australia's Leyla Liakatos finished ahead of her and clocked in first at 10:43.89; Tan came in a close second at 10:53.08; third was Polynesia's Amandine Matera at 11:12.57; Melanesia's Mary Tenge was fourth at 11:12.97; fifth was Micronesia's Keira Paz at 12:20.22; and sixth was the CNMI's Tiana Cabrera with 13:18.08

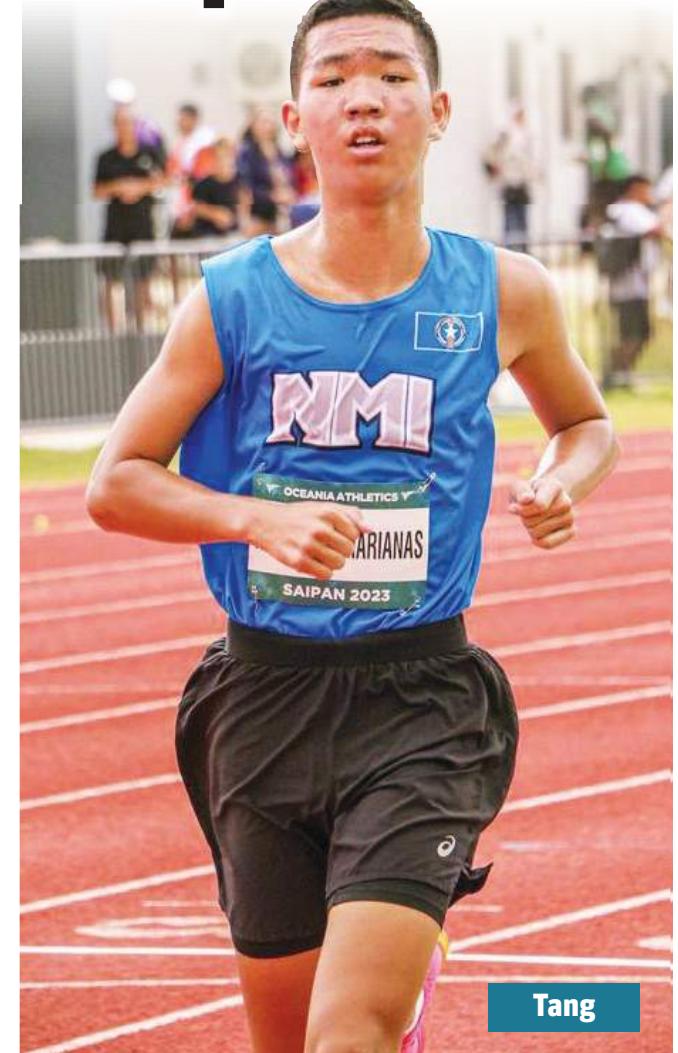
Tang galloped into third place with a time of 10:56.65 and topped five other CNMI runners in his division. First

place went to Melanesia's Aquila Turalom at 9:20.56; second went to Micronesia's Hugh Kent with a time of 9:23.45.

Simon Tang came in fourth place with a time of 11:22.40; fifth was Sildrey Veloria at 11:29.53; Michael Mancao was sixth at 11:59.43; seventh was James Lin at 12:16.48; and eighth was Simon Necesito at 14:14.00.

Tan and Tang also competed in the 1,500m race.

See TAN on Page 19



Tang

Pikaboo nips Cuki in Expert Class

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez surprised family patriarch Justis "Cuki" Alvarez in the last heat to win the Expert Class of the June 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The younger Alvarez, who was involved in a minor accident more than a year ago, finished second to Cuki in the

first heat, but came back with the vengeance in the more important second race of the day to take the win.

Both father and son finished with 47 points, but as per Marianas Racing Association rules the winner of the second heat gets the victory lap in case of a tie. Ellery Cruz completed the Top 3 with 38 points.

Shane, aboard his trusty 2023 KX250f, said racing

See PIKABOO on Page 19



LAO ZHANG
Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, seen here in a file photo, won the Expert Class of the June 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Lee, Bang compete in S. Korea

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

RUN SAIPAN Run Saipan mains tays Chong Nam Lee and Ann Bang

competed in running events in their native South Korea this past month.

Lee took on the challenge of the half marathon event of the 2023 Morning Riverside International Marathon last June 17 and completed it in a time of 1:57:36.98.

He said there were a lot of participants and although he didn't place, he tried his very best in the 21-kilometer event staged in the country's capital, Seoul.

"I was happy to participate in this big marathon event in Korea and I'm very thankful to God for being able to finish the half marathon safely," he said.

Lee said the half marathon started quite late at 8am so it was already hot.

"The hardest part was having a cramp in my leg about 2 kilometers before the finish

line. It was very painful and I almost gave up but thankfully I safely finished," said the 65-year-old barefoot runner.

Lee dedicated the 2023 Morning Riverside International Marathon to his fellow Run Saipan members.

Bang, for her part, ran not one but two half marathons while vacationing in the former Hermit Kingdom.

She also ran the 2023 Morning Riverside International Marathon and finished in a time of 2:06:26.

Like Lee, Bang said it was a very late start for a half marathon as it was already summer in South Korea.

"It's tough because the weather became hot in a week. The race started at 8am and it was too late for runners on a hot summer day. Many more runners participated in this race than in the previous one, so it was very crowded and busy."

The 49-year-old said the organizers didn't prepare enough compared to the previous edition of the Morning Riverside International Marathon.

coffee! Unbelievable! Thanks to my familiarity with the hot and humid weather of Saipan, I could complete my race without exhaustion. I got 14th place in this race in the women's division," she said.

A week before, Bang also See LEE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chong Nam Lee, left, and Ann Bang pose at the stage near the finish line of the 2023 Morning Riverside International Marathon in Seoul, South Korea.